

The Batavia Historian

Batavia Historical Society

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Kinne & Jeffery Department Store & Schielke Food Store Recollections of Donald Schielke

From 1876 to 1976, the Kinne & Jeffery Department Store, begun in 1874, and its successor, the Schielke Food Store, occupied the limestone building with ornamental cast iron front on the southeast corner of River Street (Route 25) and Wilson Street. Donald Schielke, who was born in Batavia on January 10, 1919, and is steeped in the history of both stores, recently reminisced about his experiences with Elliott Lundberg and your editor.

How did Kinne & Jeffery get started?

I have a book here that was printed in 1903, *Kinne & Jeffery Department Store*. The first paragraph says the business was founded in 1874 by I.B. Kinne, who purchased a drug store and added groceries in a small way in 1875. In 1876 he rented and moved to the building at Route 25 and Wilson that had been constructed in 1869.

M.M. Kinne bought his father's interest in 1880, and J.W. Jeffery, my grandfather, entered employment as a druggist. Later my grandfather left

the business for a short time to work at Howell's in Geneva, but then returned, buying an interest in the business and becoming a partner. My grandfather's office was on the first floor underneath the stairway.

Tell us something about the store.

When Mr. Kinne took over the building, he had many different rooms in the back, one for oil, one for sugar, one for paint, and one all lined with tin -- walls, floor, and ceiling. Supplies were kept there so the rats couldn't get them. During the Depression, the Government rented this room and would bring in beans, sugar, and other supplies that they would give out. People would go down to Jake Feldman and get a ticket for so many dollars worth of food and bring the ticket in for the food.

There was a big double Hubbard grinder and a roaster. The County Farm would come down with 100-pound bags of coffee that had not been ground -- I guess it was cheaper for them to buy it that way. We would grind and roast it for them. And if customers wanted something ground up fine, we could do it for them.

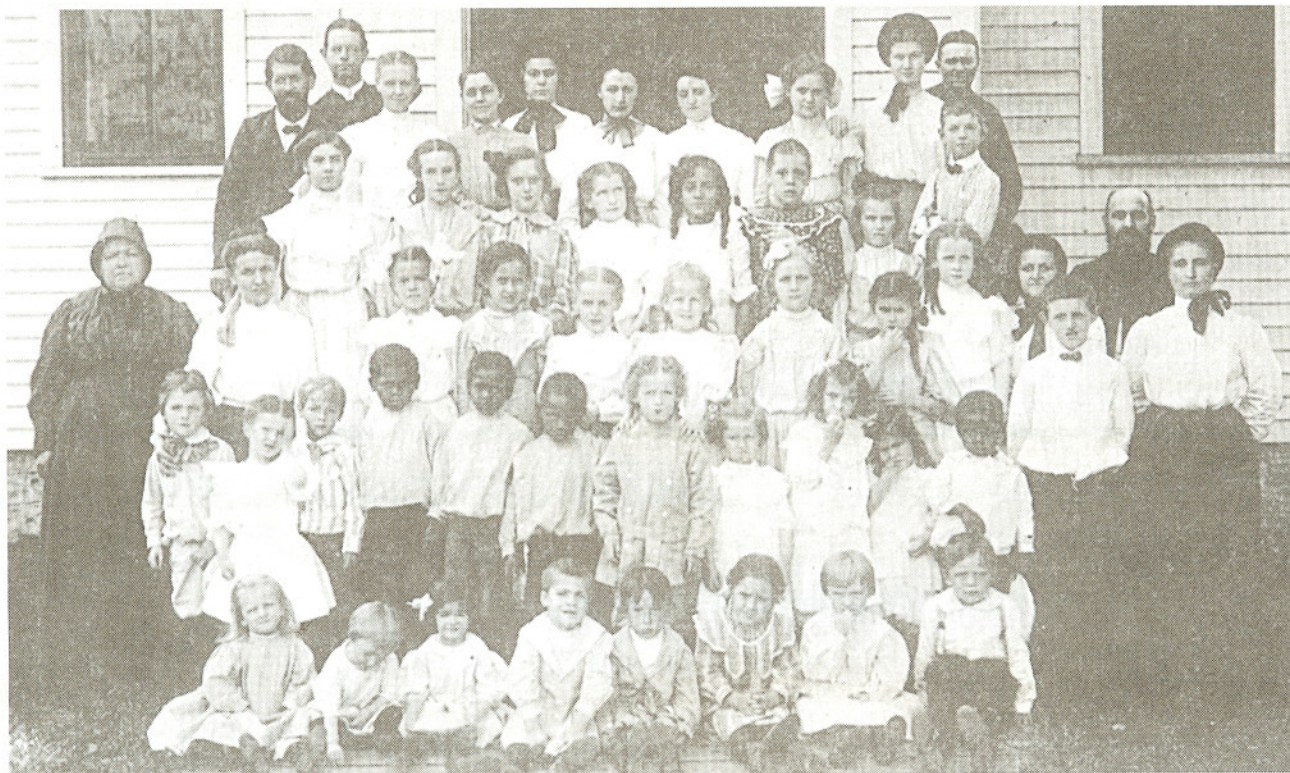
We had a second floor that was very interesting. Grace Pierce, Harry Pierce's mother, worked up there for about 30 years. She took care of the upstairs where they sold lamps, some clothing, and toys -- lots of toys. When



General view of building with delivery wagons at side.

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A Short History Faith Church of the Brethren



Top row (left to right): L.A. Pollack, James M. Moore, Pastor, Eva Door, Mrs. Pollack, Alta Netzley (Williams), Birdie Clemmer (McCall), a Visitor, Hazel Rogers (Rahm), Independence, MO, Amy Netzley (Replogle), LaVerne, CA, Harvey Houck. 2nd row from top: Mildred Zollers (Guddendorf), Aurora, IL, Grace Montgomery (Beckman), Lucille Benton, Bessie Barr, Ruby Ballard (Downs), Elgin, IL, Alice Quinby, Margaret Netzley (Small), Seattle, WA, Chaucey Stuff. 3rd row from top: Mary Smith McKay, Mrs. David (Alice) Stuff, Sarah McCullough (Bolt), Bradenton, FL, Jessie Partlow, Sadie Miller (Oxe), Gladys Barr, Frances Cavender, Helen Cavender, California, Lillian Barr (Henning), St. Charles, IL, Mrs. Emanuel Netzley, Floyd Morter, Samuel Netzley, Mrs. Ella Moore (pastor's wife). 4th row from top: Harold Morter, Eva Stuff (Netzley-Rigley), Georgia Corklund, 3 Jackson brothers, Gladys Barr, Ethel Door, Deliah Montgomery, _____ Montgomery, another Jackson boy. 5th row from top: Naomi Houck, _____, Grace Pollack, Raymond Pollack, John McCullough, Mertle Partlow, Helen Benton, _____. Sadie Miller Oxe had the original of this picture cleaned and reframed May 22, 1956. Married names and addresses added by Mrs. Harry Schimelpfenig, 1970. Sunday School in 1906.

This is the sixth in a series of Batavia church histories. It is based primarily on *Brethren in Batavia*, a history of Faith Church written in 1970 by Pastor Terry Hatfield. Erin Matteson, the church's new pastor, reviewed the article and suggested the conclusion.

The Batavia Historian, recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's 1997 Award for Superior Achievement, is published quarterly by the Batavia Historical Society. The editor, Bill Hall, will welcome any suggestions or material -- 630-879-2033.

The Depot Museum, a cooperative effort of the Society and the Batavia Park District, is open from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through November. The director, Carla Hill, can be reached at 630-879-5235.

The final details of organization were not yet established when 24 brothers and sisters met at 2:30 in the afternoon, October 3, 1896, in their new Batavia meetinghouse. Nineteen in number, heretofore members of the Naperville church, the German Baptist Brethren gathered in council, with five leading brethren present to assist in the organizational proceedings.

Chosen as trustees in the first election were Henry W. Barkdoll, Samuel E. Netzley, and Jesse Clemmer. Church officers elected were Mary E. Netzley, clerk, and Samuel Netzley, treasurer.

But there had been Brethren church activity in Batavia for 16 years prior to the formal organization. The Brethren's first church services were held in 1880 at the Christian Church, followed later by revival meetings, one

series held in the old Baptist Church and the other in the Evangelical Church. In 1885 the members established their first prayer meetings, held for some time in different homes but later in a small room that they rented on Church Street.

In 1886, they baptized their first convert, Susan Morter. This and other early baptismal services were not the secluded rites of today in some convenient church pool, but were conducted on the shores of the Fox River, both in winter and summer. Two years later, Bro. George Zollers conducted the first communion service in the old Methodist Church.

The membership slowly increased until, in 1895, they thought it advisable to have a regular place of worship of their own. After obtaining per-

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Kinne & Jeffery Department Store Recollections

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Mrs. Pierce needed change, she could order it from the downstairs office where my Aunt Erma Jeffery sat. They had a cable between the offices with a metal container attached, which could be sent back and forth between them. It was operated on a spring system.

When I was young, we used to go to Chicago at Christmas time to McClurg's and Gould's and Butler Brothers' and buy toys. They'd send the goods out to the store on a truck. There was an elevator in the middle of the store that went from the basement to the third floor. It had a motor on it, but it was a hand-driven affair with a big wheel on top and a cord that went around. We'd take the toys up on the elevator and open them up. It was interesting - I got to see the toys before anyone else. In those days, we were about the only store in town that had a big stock, and we sold a lot of toys.

In the back of the building, there used to be a three-car garage. The front of the store was heated by steam, but in the garage at the back, Mr. Kinne had put in a little water heater for heat. I used to go down and fire that thing up in the middle of winter so we had heat for those old trucks. They were hard to start when it was cold.

What led to the name change from Kinne & Jeffery to Schielke's Food Store?

My father married Vera Jeffery, the daughter of J.W. Jeffery. My father could drive a car, and he would take Mr. Jeffery to the Rock River on fishing trips. He evidently worked his way in and then married my mother. Mr. Kinne and Mr. Jeffery both died in 1918, shortly before I was born. There were no Kinnes to get in the business, and my grandmother got it.

My grandmother and my Aunt Erma Jeffery ran it. Because Aunt Erma and my father didn't get along very well, my grandmother got disgusted and sold the business to my father for about \$10,000, just to get out of it. Of course \$10,000 was a lot of money in those days, but it was a big business, too. Aunt Erma quit in 1926 and went across the street to work at the Batavia National Bank until she retired in 1947.

My father renamed the store Schielke's Food Store. I worked there with my brother, Howard. When I was

little, people would say, "Boy, are you lucky. You can get all the candy you want." I never thought anything about it -- I guess I thought everybody had candy.

Did your father make any changes after he took over?

He decided to put in a meat market. He bought a big walk-in cooler and showcases and hired a butcher. The first butcher was from Rockford -- I can't remember his name. Then we had Algert Swanson, who made real good Swedish sausage. He'd make wash tubs full of that sausage. He had some special ingredient he'd put in the sausage, and my father was always trying to find out what it was. One morning Mr. Swanson was going down to Rachielles to buy this spice, so my father told me to go with him and maybe I could find out what it was. I went with him, but they just handed it to him. So I didn't find out what it was.

We sold lots of meat. Dr. Bothwell would buy a side of beef and store it in our cooler. It would lie up there until it started to get green. Then he'd come down and have Algert cut off a couple of nice big steaks. Later we had a butcher from St. Charles by the name of Walt Otto. He was the last butcher there.

You delivered, didn't you?

Yes. People would call up on the phone and give us their orders. We would deliver twice in the morning on

the east side and once on the west side, and the same thing in the afternoon. We had six deliveries going out per day. You could call almost any time, and if you were a good customer we'd deliver at three in the morning. You know how that was.

We had a big counter where we would put the groceries up in a special kind of box that could be folded and lie flat. There was a small size for bread and milk, and then a bigger box. We had two trucks. I started out driving a Model T, then we had a Model A Ford, and finally we got a Dodge truck. We'd put the groceries on the elevator and let it down about ten feet to where we could take them off and put them on the truck. We were protected from the rain.

At Christmas time and at Thanksgiving, we would be real busy. Sometimes then we would have to use both trucks.

Can you tell us anything about your customers?

In those days, everybody charged things. Hardly anyone paid cash. We hardly had any bad debts; people paid their bills.

The Frank Snows had the biggest bill, about \$250 per month. He was the president of the Challenge Company. They had four daughters, but Mrs. Snow would come down and buy Lionel trains and cast iron toys -- all the best toys for them. I think they had

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Herman Schielke, J.W. Jeffery and Unidentified Boys c. 1911

Kinne & Jeffery Department Store Recollections

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had a boy who died. I'd like to have some of those cast iron toys like she bought now. They were about three or four dollars then, and in those days that was a lot of money.

There was a customer in town named Albro Prindle. He sold stocks in Chicago. He had the nicest wife; when I'd deliver groceries there she'd always give me cookies. Albro Prindle, though, was an overbearing person. He'd come in the store and say to my father, "Herman, you see that Packard out in front? Put a case of Sunkist oranges in there; that's my car." He always wore diamond rings and was well-dressed. He'd go to Chicago on the Aurora and Elgin train, and he'd stop in the store and cut off a big hunk of baloney or liver sausage and chomp it down. When he left, my father put it on his bill.

I used to deliver groceries to the Holmes sisters. There were two of them, Harriet and Olive. They lived on South Batavia Avenue where the Bed and Breakfast is now. Their father had been a wealthy man. Harriet worked as a cancer researcher at the University of Chicago, and also taught at Northwestern University. Olive stayed home and took care of the house and her cats. She would buy Richelieu sockeye salmon for cats, fifty cents for a small can. Most people had never even heard of it. At Christmas time, she'd give me five dollars, a lot of money then. They were real nice people.

Did you handle anything besides groceries and toys?

At Christmas time, we used to buy Christmas trees from a company up in Elgin -- name of McGill and something else. We'd store them in the basement, which had a floor that had been the bed rock of the river and was always cool. So we could show trees to customers and sell them from there,

and the ones we didn't sell, they'd come down and pick them up and give us credit for them.

At one time, Clarence Bell, who used to be a policeman in town, and my father had the idea of raising chickens. They had a big room upstairs, and they put in coops and raised a lot of chickens for quite a while -- those small white chickens, I think they were leghorns.

My father decided he would sell some kind of liquor in the store, so he got a license to sell but not serve liquor. He ordered \$500 worth of liquor, and I cleaned off about four or five big shelves for space. He was always afraid that Miss Holmes wouldn't like it. One time she called and asked for my father. He had an idea what she was going to say; she asked if he sold liquor, and he said he did. "Good," she said. "Send me up a bottle of wine." My father was real happy -- he thought she was going to cancel her order.

Are there any special things you remember from working at the store?

At Christmas time we'd have a Santa Claus, and he sat up on the landing half-way up the stairs. The kids would come up, and he'd ask them what they wanted for Christmas. I always believed in Santa Claus, because he was always there. One day I was coming down the back stairs, and in one of the rooms I saw Santa Claus taking off his clothes. It was Bill Bartelt. After that, I think a year later, I was the Santa Claus.

On Saturday evening in the summertime, I would go down and put two or three hundred pounds of peanuts in the roaster. We had it vented so the odor would go out on Wilson Street and on River Street. The whole corner would smell of fresh roasted peanuts. Boy, they were good when they were fresh, and we sure sold a lot of

them.

What happened to the grocery business?

There hadn't been any chain stores earlier, just home-owned stores. Then the A&P, National Tea and Kroger's came in, and it got to be that I could do gown to Kroger's and buy things cheaper than what we paid for them at the wholesalers.

My father got upset with business and was sick, so my brother took over the business and I went down to Aurora to work at Allsteel Equipment. My brother, Howard, was different; he bought models to sell and took over the front of the store. My father moved to the back of the store. They didn't get along too well, and my father finally left.

Howard operated in his own way. When he was out of the store, he would hang a potato sack on a hook in front, and people knew he was out of the store.

What finally became of the building that had housed Kinne & Jeffery and then Schielke's for so many years?

The State wanted to improve the corner of Route 25 and Wilson Street, and the City had a plan to put a parking lot on the corner, so my brother sold the property to the City. I don't know how much he got, maybe \$38,000 or something like that. Then the City found out that Schielke's and the building next door to the east had a common wall, so they had to buy that building, also. Then they bought the small building to the east of that one. They were all torn down, but the parking plan did not materialize.

There were a number of old fixtures in the building. Some men were going to develop an old-fashioned street on the east side of St. Charles, and my brother sold most of the fixtures in the store to them. But they went broke, and my son, Jeff, had to sue them -- I guess he got something back. I've got the old cash register from the store and a scale and some other nice things. The old coffee grinder was sold to some farmer who used it to grind grain.

Parts of the cast iron pieces used on the front of the Schielke building are displayed in the Depot Museum, down on the lower floor. They were made by the Love Brothers in Aurora.

So that's how Schielke's ended.

John Gustafson's Historic Batavia

A "Must" for Anyone Interested in Our History

If you have not already done so, you should get your copy of Marilyn Robinson's and Jeff Schielke's best-selling revision of *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia*. The book, sponsored by your Society, went on sale November 30, and through the end of December nearly 1,000 copies had been sold. You may purchase copies at the Batavia Park District, the Chamber of Commerce, and most local bookstores.

Swedish Nicknames in Batavia – Continued

In the July issue, we began listing the Swedish nicknames in Batavia that Edna Oleson had started, with help from her brother Roland Peterson, and that Elliott Lundberg, Carl Nelson and Arnold O. Johnson completed in 1989. The list continues below:

NAME	NICKNAME	OTHER COMMENTS
Emil Anderson	Kången in Jericho	King of Jericho (McKinley St.)
Emil Anderson	Casey	Brother of Artie Mag
Emma Anderson	Emma Long	Daughter of Lil August
Evar Anderson	Leggo (Leggy)	Brother of Nello and Prutt
Frank Anderson	Prutt	Brother of Leggo & Nello
George Anderson	Crazy George	Lived at County Farm, came into town and cleaned streets
Ida Anderson	Stora Ida (Big Ida)	Wife of Nels Anderson
John Anderson	Goodwin's John	Jackson & McKee
John Anderson	Grubba John	Grubba, Sweden
John Anderson	Värö John	Varo, Sweden
John Anderson	Pretty John Billingen	Bald headed, wore a wig
John Anderson	Painter John	Brother of Smash & Eddie
Kenneth Anderson	Ola's Tillie's Kenneth	
Olivia Anderson	Levy Streed	Short for Olivia, one of the Streed family
Oscar Anderson	Ola's Oscar	Son of Olaus
Oscar Anderson	Big Oscar - Stora Oscar	Boss of Challenge foundry
Oscar Anderson	Bill Crow's Oscar	Brother's nickname - Bill Crow
Oscar Anderson	Kåla Pete's Oscar	Son of Kåla Pete
Oscar Anderson	Swede Store Oscar	
Oscar Anderson	Värö Carl's Oscar	Son of Värö Carl (Charlie)
Oscar Anderson	Värö John's Oscar	Son of Värö John
Walter Anderson	Nello	Brother of Leggo and Prutt
Francis, Sherman and Gene Anderson	Kubarn (Cow Barn)	Sons of Charlie "Streed's John" Anderson, McKee Street
	Noisy Anderson	
	Skrådare Anderson	Tailor shop in Anderson Bros. Swede Store
	Skóniga Anderson	
	Studerare Anderson	
	Ole Åkeson	Sold Sayman's soap from baby buggy
Roger Beels	Rajah	
Arnold Benson	Big Six	State Senator, President of First National Bank
Andrew Benson	Little Grasshopper	
Axel Benson	Olga's Axel	McKee St., father of Albin & Rikard
Carl Benson	Sneeze - also Box Carl	
Charles Benson	Yellow Pants Charlie	Always wore khaki pants
Emil Benson	Wick	Attorney, brother of Arnold
Evar Benson	Wingy - Pigeon Breast	Walnut St.
Herman Benson	Hummie	Strathmore Printing
John Benson	Furniture Benson	Father of Emil and Arnold
John Benson	Skricka John	Married Evelyn Benson, widow
	Squeekie John	of Frank (Nick) Benson

(to be continued)

Museum Doings by Carla Hill, Director

This has been a great year. We have had many groups tour the museum including several from the Chicago area. The museum closed on November 21 for the winter season. Chris and I will be working on several projects, including lining the upstairs shelves, putting up some additional paintings, and installing the podium and family photo album in the Van Nortwick Room. We will also be putting up a display on Batavia's dairies in the lower hallway.

We are still available for help with research and some special tours.

The Museum Volunteer Christmas luncheon went very well, and the Batavia High School Swing Singers provided an outstanding program. The museum has approximately 80 dedicated volunteers. Without volunteers we would not be able to operate. A special thank you to Walter and Georgene Kauth for opening the museum on Saturdays and Sundays; Dorothy Hanson,

Marilyn Phelps and Helen Anderson for their on-going work with the museum collections; Marilyn Robinson and Bill Wood, who are always there when I need their help; and Kathy Fairbairn, who has the tremendous task of scheduling the museum volunteers and preparing the monthly calendar.

The 1997 Museum ornament has sold very well this year, and *John*

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Newton Wagon Company

An Oklahoma antiques dealer recently acquired the wagon pictured on this page. Noting that it bore the name Emerson-Brantingham Corp., Newton Wagon Works, Batavia, Ill., the dealer wrote to Batavia, asking for information about the maker of the wagon. Bill Wood responded, and it occurred to us that readers who have seen the Newton name various places around town, such as the house at the northwest corner of Batavia Avenue and Wilson Street and the Civil War monument in the West Side Cemetery, might be interested in a brief history of the company. Much of what follows is taken from *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia*.

After fire destroyed his wagon factory in Attica, New York, Levi Newton recalled that much of his business was derived from Illinois and came to Batavia in September, 1854. He looked over the north end of the Island, which was in wheat, and appraised it, with its available water power and the abundant timber up and down the valley, as an ideal site for his new factory. The first year he and his son, Don Carlos, who had gone into partnership with him, made only thirty-six wagons and thirty-five buggies. Later his younger son, E.C., and then his son-in-law, H.K. Wolcott, became joint stockholders.

It was well the losses were divided and limited because disaster in the form of another fire hit in 1872. The fire burned the entire shop north of the newly erected three-story office building. Since that was the year after the Chicago fire, the insurance companies could not pay their obligations. The Newton company had to stand the entire loss, which totalled about \$40,000 -- a staggering sum for those days. The company rebuilt the plant, however, better than before.

Newton wagons became known all over the United States for their strength and durability, with many of them used in the country's westward expansion. As reported in Roberta Campbell's *Batavia: 1833-1983*, "the Newtons' contribution to settling the west is described in an excerpt from a small booklet titled 'The Covered Wagon, a reminiscence of the migration of the Flower family to Iowa from their Vermont home in 1887,' written



by Esther Flower Cruickshank. She told how, after a train trip from Shushen, N.Y., by way of Niagara Falls and Canada, ferrying the Detroit River and thence to Chicago, 'we changed cars for Batavia, Illinois, our stopping place . . . and here it was that we found our "Covered Wagon." Uncle Eli and Pa spent days looking for a good team of horses and choosing a wagon in which we must travel the rest of the way to Iowa. I think the wagon was selected, then the cover was put on. The cover was of heavy

white cotton and there were strong bows to hold it firm and in shape.'" In 1887, the company was making between four and five thousand wagons and carriages a year.

Don Carlos succeeded his father as president in 1879, H.K. Wolcott succeeding him in 1893. Wolcott continued as president until the Emerson-Brantingham Corp. bought the firm in 1912. The Batavia Body Company, which Gunnar Wiberg described in the last issue, grew out of this in 1931.



Museum Doings

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Gustafson's Historic Batavia books have been a tremendous success. We have the windmill kits back in stock, so if you have been waiting for them they are now available.

I am looking forward to preparing some new exhibits for 1998, including a display that will feature the Jerry Ruble artifacts. The museum will reopen the first Monday in March. Anyone who would like to volunteer at the museum should contact Kathy Fairbairn at 406-9041.

Has Your *Historian* Arrived on Time?

As you have probably noticed, we have a non-profit permit that allows us to mail the *Historian* and notices of meetings at substantially reduced rates. The Postal Service is not required to deliver such mailings as promptly as it does first class mail. Members who live in Batavia are fortunate in receiving very timely delivery service, but we understand that delivery to members in other cities is sometimes delayed for several weeks.

If you live outside of Batavia and have not been receiving timely deliveries, we shall be glad to mail your newsletters and meeting notices first class. Please let us know if you wish this service, with a payment of \$2.00 for the year in addition to your regular dues.

mission from the Naperville church to which they still belonged, they purchased the site of the present church on North Van Buren Street. The building in which the 24 Brethren met to organize their church was completed for \$785.

Let's pause at this point to consider just who the Brethren were. They began about 1708 when eight dedicated Christians joined to seek refuge from the religious persecution in what is now Germany. They shared the experiences and many of the beliefs of the Mennonites. In 1719, forty families left for Pennsylvania, followed over the next ten years by most of those who were to stay with the Brethren. The first group established a church in Germantown; the Coventry and Conestoga congregations were founded in 1724.

The pre-Revolutionary period saw expansion into Virginia and Maryland. Following the Revolution, Brethren congregations began to appear west of the Appalachians. In 1849, Jacob

Netzley left his home in Lititz, Pennsylvania, for Illinois, settling in DuPage County. With the coming of other Brethren families, the Naperville German Baptist Church was founded in 1855. This church, as we have seen, became the parent church of the Batavia congregation.

Brethren life was characterized in this time by their principles of the good life, the simple life, peace, brotherhood, and temperance. Adherence to these principles, based on New Testament scriptures, was expected -- and demanded. The "peculiar people," as they sometimes called themselves, avoided materialism in both church and home. Women wore gowns, capes, and bonnets. A net prayer covering was also worn on the head. Men dressed in collarless black coats and broad-brimmed hats and wore beards. The meetinghouse was usually a simple structure with benches, a heating stove, and a table for the ministers.

The first council was reconvened on October 17, 1896, two weeks after organization, to complete a set of by-laws by which to govern the church. Article 7 stipulated the procedure necessary to bring a charge on another member's action or conduct. The complaint was to be in writing, with the name of the person bringing it and the charge.

That first council found two of the nineteen original members being charged for misdeeds. Therman Cressen and Charles Ballard, "accused of drunkenness and misconduct did not appear at the council meeting." Bro. Cressen acknowledged the charge to be true "but desired time to consider reconciliation." Bro. Ballard had made no such acknowledgment, but council decided "to send him a visit and get a decided answer if he will come to the meeting and make an acknowledgment and the church forgive him."

On March 13, 1897, it was reported the "Bro. Ballard has made his acknowledgment to the church and was forgiven." The trust and faith in his repentance was so strong that the church "decided to have Bro. C. Ballard for janitor until the next council." Bro. Cressen's case was still undecided as he was "afflicted." As promises often fade with time, Bro.

Ballard was once again found under the influence and expelled from the membership on June 13, 1897. That same day, the other accused, Bro. Cressen, acknowledged his drunkenness and received the forgiveness of the council. The forgiveness, however, was transformed into a vote of disownment in October of the same year, as he continued his indulgence. And, over the next few years, the council minutes revealed Bro. Ballard and his wife, leaving, reentering, and again leaving the church as if through a revolving door!

While these disownments were frequent (fourteen in the first seventeen years), cases were handled with much patience. There was frequent mention in early minutes of decisions "to bear with" the violator a "while." Details about many of these cases are not recorded, suggesting that they were serious transgressions. Other matters seem trivial to us today, such as giving "Myrtle Dame time, until first of April 1901, to lay aside her jewelry and hat."

In 1908 the name of the church was changed from the German Baptist Brethren to the Church of the Brethren. Beginning in that year, there was a noted emphasis on the church's mission to the poor. The church helped find a home for the children of a mother who could not keep them. Records show the church helping with the sickness and funeral expenses of one of its members. And an important development: The September 30 council "decided that we carry out the decisions of Annual Meeting in giving the sisters the privilege of breaking bread" -- a right reserved for the men up to that time.

The first real sign of ecumenism sprang forth in 1914 when the Brethren cooperated with the rest of the churches in Batavia in a union revival service. This was the initial step to greater community participation in worship and religious programs. Their interests began to broaden beyond their own fellowship. On April 6, 1914, the council passed a resolution to support national prohibition and to request that the Senate of the United States pass the Shepherd and Hobson Resolution.

At the council of March 16, 1916, the following resolution was passed:
1. That we hereby put ourselves on

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Annual Christmas Meeting An Enjoyable Event -- As Usual

With 125 members in attendance, the Annual Meeting and Christmas potluck, held on Sunday, December 7, at Bethany Lutheran Church, was what we have come to expect -- a huge success.

Following a delicious dinner, Co-President Bert Johnson conducted a brief business meeting at which the following officers and directors were elected: Vice President and Program Chairman, Richard Benson (succeeding Patricia Will); Corresponding Secretary, Georgene Kauth (incumbent); and incumbent Directors Carole Dunn, Tim Mair, and Bill Wood.

The delightful program, which the outgoing program chairman, Patty Will, had arranged, consisted of music from different countries presented by the Middle School's Bataviana Strolling Strings. After the program, many members took advantage of the opportunity to buy copies of *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia*, which the authors, Marilyn Robinson and Jeff Schielke autographed.

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record as favoring the simple life in all its phases as set forth in the Gospel and by Annual Conference.

2. That we will to the best of our ability maintain in our lives this simplicity of life and modesty in dress as defined by Annual Conference.

3. That we will uphold these principles and methods in our personal work and mingling with one another as well as with those not of our church.

4. That we hereby record our stand against all the evil forms of worldliness so detrimental to spiritual life and growth.

While the third resolution specifically recognized "mingling with one another as well as with those not of our church," it is interesting to note that the church discontinued all active part in the union worship services.

As for Brethren of every generation, war and military service became a serious question. During World War I, Rev. J.M. Moore wrote to Chauncy Stuff, who at one time served as church clerk, dealing with "the difficult situation in which you find yourself, and the problems you must resolve relative to your religious convictions" on military service. We do not know what decision Bro. Stuff reached.

In order to ascertain whether the church was willing and able to support a resident pastor in 1922, the ministerial committee recommended that each member present publicly pledge the amount he is willing to contribute. Seven hundred dollars was pledged. Since the amount was insufficient, the members then voted on the question: Should we go ahead and hire a resident pastor on the strength of the \$700 pledged tonight? The ballot revealed a close split of 12 yeas and 18 nays. But in January of 1923 they saw their way clear to hire Galen Lehman.

A dramatic change in worship came in that year with the introduction of a previously forbidden piano. Sixteen members had filed the following petition:

Inasmuch as church music is a most vital part of church worship, and

Inasmuch as we do not have the response in congregational singing that we believe our ability and numbers justify, and

Inasmuch as Annual Conference



The church in 1957

has given permission to all churches so desiring to place pianos in their church for the purpose of being used as an aid to congregational singing, and

Inasmuch as we believe that a piano would prove valuable in promoting better singing,

We the undersigned do hereby petition the Batavia Church of the Brethren to grant the privilege of placing a piano within the church for the purpose above stated, providing that the funds for the same can be secured unassisted from funds forming the regular budget of the church.

The council approved the petition in July.

As with churches generally, the Brethren encountered severe financial difficulties from time to time. In 1925, some of the members, it was stated, were not looking upon their pledges with seriousness. An envelope system was established, with payment of pledges to be made each Sunday. At the end of each quarter, the treasurer gave a "public report" of each member's standing -- a short-lived practice we are told.

Over the next couple of decades, which included the Great Depression, the church continued to struggle financially. In 1945, however, after twenty-two years of refinancing, remodeling, and repairing, the parsonage debt was paid off. With vision and hope, the trustees purchased a lot adjacent and north of the church in 1955. In January of 1958, a building fund for enlarging the church was started.

Although attendance had dropped

to an average of 36 in 1955, it increased to 47 in 1957 and 67 in 1959. And during this period, the first steps were taken for closer association with the Faith Evangelical United Brethren. Five blocks south of the Brethren at the corner of State Street, the E.U.B. had its beginning in the middle of the 19th century. The two churches were not related historically in origin or beliefs, but there was a kinship in problems, struggles, and family ties. Both had Germanic roots.

First, the two churches sponsored a joint vacation Bible school, and the men had some combined fellowship meetings. Talks in the spring of 1963 led to the formation of a "yoked parish." In 1965 the churches voted to hold combined services for the summer, and in January, 1966, the two churches voted to unite into one body, which became the Faith Church of the Brethren. The E.U.B. church and parsonage were sold to the Holy Cross Parish for \$40,000.

At the next council, the first officers were elected: James Renz, moderator, and Ruth Anderson, Clerk. The first church board members were Andy Anderson, Glenn Anderson, Forrest Barber, Floyd Fitch, Letha Gribble, Clarence Gorham, Harold Maves, June Oxe, Emilie Schimelfenig, Robert Stuttle, Thelma Wagner, and Ida Wisthoff.

With the combining of the two bodies into a building too small for one, the need for a new structure was evident to all. On August 3, 1966, the congregation approved a \$77,000 building contract for a new complex.

Continued on p. 9

Batavians Star in Sports

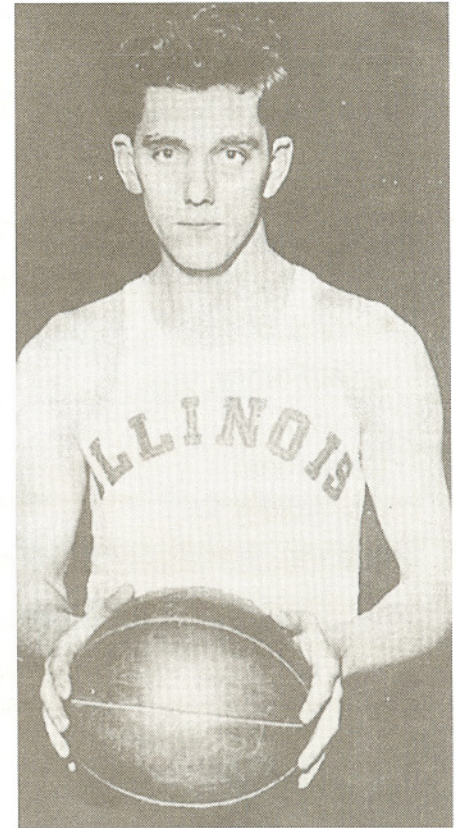
When Carl "Pinoke" Johnson died on November 11, our city lost a major contact with an era in which Batavia athletes achieved outstanding success, both locally and beyond. Knowing that Pinoke had a scrapbook of clippings from the 1920s that was given to him by Harold Foland, we asked Pinoke's son Dean if we might borrow it.

Although most of our members have probably heard that Batavia won the state basketball championship in 1912 and may have read in *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia* that the 1920-21 teams reached the state finals two years in a row, we wonder how many know that Batavia came close to repeating in 1924. That year's team, led by All-state Pinoke Johnson, won 20 games, with no losses, during the regular season. Opponents included West Aurora and Wheaton, as well as downstate powers Decatur and Taylorville. The story on the Wheaton game noted that Wheaton's center was a brother of the famous Harold Grange

of the Illini, better remembered today as Red Grange. It was certainly a different game in those days, with a center jump after each basket; the win against St. Charles was by a score of 17 to 5. In that era of low scores, the 69-13 runaway against Downers Grove must have been truly breathtaking.

In clinching the Aurora district playoff title with a 41 to 17 rout of Sandwich, "Pinoke" Johnson, according to a headline, "Blazed Way to Victory, Scoring 17 of Winning Points." Unfortunately, however, the dream came to an end after 27 straight victories when Batavia lost to Elgin, 31 to 19, in the final game of the Joliet sectional tournament. Elgin went on to win the state championship. Besides Pinoke Johnson, the starters on the Batavia team, coached by J.W. Peel, included Carl Anderson, C. Bergeson, Leonard Carlson, and Herbert Johnson. One of the Elgin players was Doug Mills, who later became the basketball coach and then the athletic director of the University of Illinois. And Pinoke went on, as many Batavians will recall, to serve for many years as a Big Ten basketball official, as well as handling state tournament games in Champaign.

But the scrapbook was not limited to the Batavia basketball team of 1923-24. Johnny Mauer, a former Batavia football and basketball star and by 1924 an outstanding athlete at the University of Illinois, was featured in a number of clippings. A picture of the leaders expected to play for Illinois that year in a basketball game against Michigan carried the line: "Michigan and Illinois will clash again tomorrow night, but this time it will be on the basketball court and there will be no Red Grange for the Wolverines to fear. But the Illini have a man by the name of Johnny Mauer who is expected to be something of a menace to the Ann Arbor boys." A couple of pages later, under a heading "Saves Illinois," we read that "Johnny Mauer, former Batavia High School star, tossed Illinois to victory and the lead in the Big Ten conference last night when he chocked the winning basket in the game against Indiana which the Illini won, 21 to 20." And still another headline reads: "Mauer Hero As Illini Quintet Triumphs, 35-31" against Ohio State. After a ca-



Big Chief of the Illini, John Mauer.

reer at Illinois that included captaining the football and basketball teams, Mauer returned to Batavia for one year as the high school basketball coach before moving on to coach at the college level, first at the University of Kentucky and later at West Point.

Reading the sports page then must have been as exciting for Batavians as it was forty to fifty years later when Dan Issel and Ken Anderson captured so many headlines in high school, in college, and finally in professional basketball and football. But that is another story -- one to cover another time.

We Hate to Lose a Reader but --

We will have to discontinue sending future issues of the *Historian* to any readers who have not paid dues since January 1, 1997. If there is a red dot on your address label, it means that we have not received your dues for 1997 or 1998, and this will be your last issue unless we hear from you. Please keep that from happening.

Faith Church

Continued from p. 8

Difficulties with the contractor, who was eventually dismissed before completion of the building, increased considerably the cost. The structure, finished through the combined efforts and talents of the members and local contractors, cost approximately \$105,000.

Although Faith Church continues to move through transition and change today, such as welcoming a new pastor just this past July, the members continue to build in their tradition and rich history as well. And they do this, keeping their doors open, warmly to any and all who wish to enter into their story at this juncture of its telling. The congregation still talks openly about what it means to live simply in today's fast-paced, materialistic culture. The members still work at issues of peace and justice and social action for the good of their community and the world. They still work cooperatively with other congregations in town on community projects. And they still work hard as a people, toward a future filled with hope and promise.

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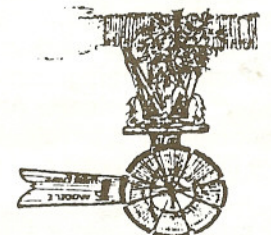
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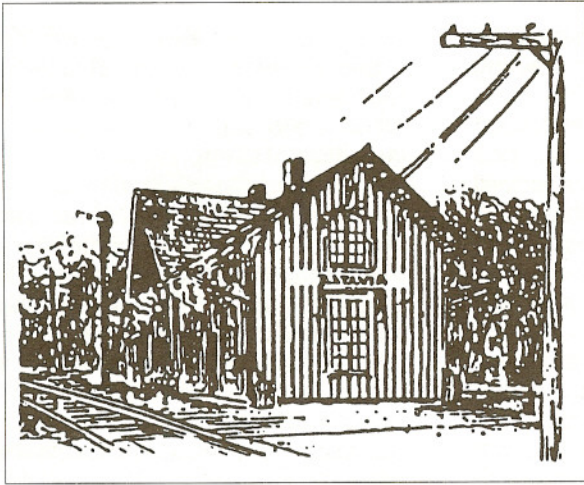
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April, 1998

Working at Campana

Batavians, new and old, are familiar with the striking brick and glass block building on the northwest corner of Route 31 and Fabyan Parkway, but newcomers probably know little about it except that it bears the name Campana. Because this is a story, as told by some former employees, about working at Campana, we are not going to cover the company itself in any detail. To give readers a better perspective, however, we shall thread an abbreviated history of the company through the recounting of individual experiences. This history is summarized from Thomas A. Mair's *Batavia Revisited*, Chapter XXII, "Mooseheart, Campana, and the Household Journal," and Chapter XXIII, "Campana Leaves and Household Journal Perishes."

The recollections you will read are those of Willard and Anne Strom Carlson, Marion Swanson Todd, Ben Oswalt, and Barbara Doane Hall -- captured in interviews by Elliott Lundberg and, in the case of Ben Oswalt, Bert Johnson.

How Campana Began

The company's beginning centers on three men -- Ernest Oswalt, Rodney Brandon, and James J. Davis -- and is intertwined with the creation of Mooseheart, the origins of the *Household Journal*, and the establishment of Chicago radio station WJJD, bearing Davis' initials. One must read Tom Mair's book to understand these complex relationships; suffice it to say that in December, 1926, the State of Delaware issued its corporate charter to Campana Company "to manufacture, buy and sell, at wholesale and retail, and generally to deal in face lotions, cold creams, perfumery, soaps, cosmetics, toilet preparations and essential oils . . ." On February 5, 1927, the company was authorized to do business in Illinois, and Ernest M. Oswalt, Ira E. Seymour, and Rodney H. Brandon were president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively. In addition to those three, the directors included

Vivian Weaver of Aurora and Hazel Oswalt, Ernest's wife.

Oswalt had become acquainted with a Doctor Campana, a Canadian citizen who had developed Italian Balm, and had purchased from him the rights to

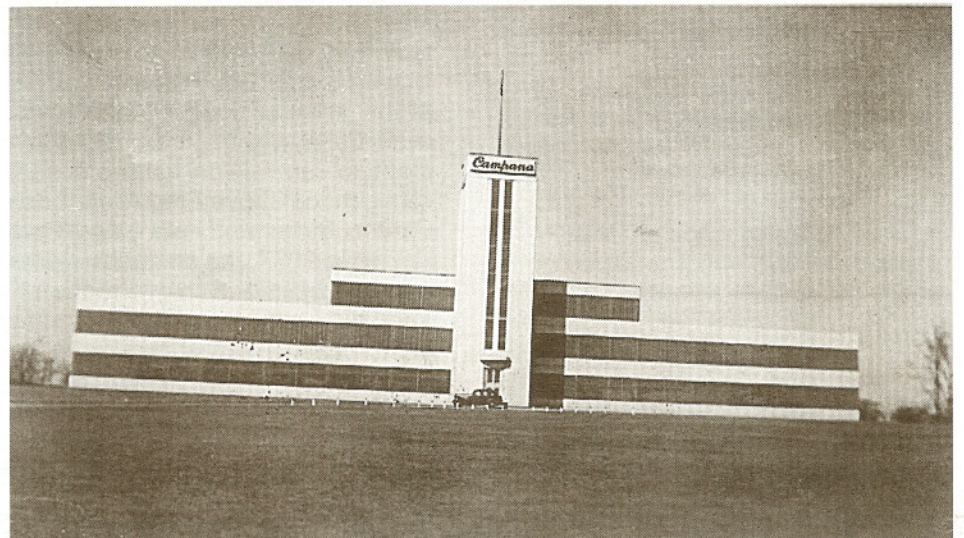
the development. In April, 1928, Oswalt sold to the new concern assets valued at \$57,000, consisting of "U.S. Trade Mark 176347, popularly known as Campana's 'Italian Balm,' together with contract of purchase by Ernest Oswalt for the Canadian Trade Mark of 'Campana's Italian Balm' . . ."

Campana began manufacturing Italian Balm in the *Household Journal* building (still standing at the northwest corner of Batavia Avenue and First Street), which it later acquired. Despite the Depression, which came a few years after Campana started operations, the company was successful.

Start of Some Early Employees

"I started work at Campana in 1929," Anne Carlson, then unmarried

Continued on p. 2



Working at Campana Continued from p. 1

and from Elburn, told us. "At that time Campana sent out a lot of samples of Italian Balm, and I worked putting labels on the small bottles and getting them ready to mail out. I worked there a number of years; then I met Willie, we went together for some years, and we got married in 1940. I guess I worked a while after we got married, and then we started raising a family."

"I was born in Batavia on March 19, 1915," Marion Swanson Todd said, "and graduated from Batavia High School in 1933. In the middle of the deep Depression I needed a job. My father went to see Walter Walsh, who was the general manager of the Campana factory and the renter of our house on Harrison Street. He told my father he would let me know, and later he called and told me to come in the next day.

"I went to the factory on the corner of First Street and Batavia Avenue; the job they told me I was going to do was to 'drop Italian Balm.' So I got on the line and dropped the bottles into the crates. That was my initiation into working in the plant. At that time, all Campana made was Italian Balm and D.D.D.² prescription. Walter Walsh was in charge, and he watched what we did. If we went to the washroom, he watched to see how long we stayed. He never did it to me, but they said he would come and knock on the door if you stayed too long. I made \$10 a week, but pretty soon the N.R.A. came in, and I got \$12 a week."

Anne Carlson's husband, Willard, spoke up, "In the fall of 1934, I applied for a job at Campana. Logan Benson was the shipping clerk when I started working there. I was supposed to get \$14 a week, but my first

pay check was for \$11.40. That turned out to be what I got during a training period.

"After I had worked for a couple of years packing material on the line, one day the boss came around and asked me if I would like to try another job. I said I'd give it a shot. John Issel was head machinist, and I went to work for him and Carl Peine. Carl and I got to be pretty good friends."

When asked what she did after "dropping Italian Balm" for a while, Marion Todd replied, "I worked in the factory for about three months, but then they needed someone in the office who could type. I went to work for Roscoe Sappenfield, vice president, and he was a persnickety man. I worked for him for about 20 years. He was a lawyer, and nothing got by him. I can remember I typed on this long carriage typewriter; it was about 20 inches wide, and I typed figures. He would watch over your shoulder and make sure it was right."

Despite what was obviously a promotion to a more responsible position as Sappenfield's secretary, Marion says that she did not receive any increase from her \$12 a week pay. In fact, she related, "In 1939 business got pretty slow so they cut 20 cents. I got \$11.80 a week.

"In 1945 Otto Moss was the auditor from Chicago, and he had been coming to audit from *Household Journal* days, before I began to work there. He decided that he would like to work for Campana, so they hired him. He moved out here, and I worked for him, too. I always worked with figures. He was a great guy."

Sampling and Radio Programs

In 1931 Campana inaugurated a radio program over NBC named the "First Nighter." Don Ameche was one of the stars of the program. Heard every Friday night, by 1937 it had from eight to ten million listeners each week, rating above Fred Allen, Eddie Cantor, Burns and Allen, and Rudy Vallee. In 1937, the company started a second radio show, "Campana's Varieties," which appeared Monday nights. Both radio shows were devoted exclusively to advertising Italian Balm, which had gained nationwide acceptance and a huge market.

Ben Oswalt, Ernest Oswalt's

nephew, who went to work for Campana when he got out of the service after World War II, commented, "It was the sampling campaign that actually got Campana off the ground. My uncle also started the First Nighter and Dr. FuManchu and that radio stuff. Florence Ward was a writer for the First Nighter radio program. Lillian Budd was a writer who worked there, too." A thick file in the Depot Museum archives bears out Ben's views: It is filled with letters praising the radio show and requesting the Italian Balm samples promised to those who wrote in first.

Move to New Building

In 1937 the company moved into its new building on North Batavia Avenue, the first structure in the United States using glass blocks. Marion Todd recalled, "It was fully air conditioned, but then they had problems with the terra cotta; they had to take out all the glass blocks and also the terra cotta below the glass blocks. Campana had to pay part of it, but the builders and suppliers paid most of it. First they tore out some of the glass blocks, but then they couldn't find enough of that size to repair it, so they had to replace them all."

With the move to the new building, Willard Carlson said, "They were going to need someone in the kitchen to help with the mixing of the Italian

Continued on p. 3

Spring General Meeting April 19



Authors Available for Autographing

Come and hear Marilyn Robinson and Mayor Jeffery Schielke tell about the writing of *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia*. The meeting will be held at 2:30 in the Bartholomew Room at the Civic Center, 327 West Wilson Street. Books will be available for purchase, and the authors will be glad to sign copies.

Refreshments will be served, and visitors are urged to attend.

The Batavia Historian, recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's 1997 Award for Superior Achievement, is published quarterly by the Batavia Historical Society. The editor, Bill Hall, will welcome any suggestions or material -- 630-879-2033.

The Depot Museum, a cooperative effort of the Society and the Batavia Park District, is open from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through November. The director, Carla Hill, can be reached at 630-879-5235.

Working at Campana Continued from p. 2

Balm. In the old plant everything was mixed by hand. In the new plant everything was automatic. You just pushed a button, but you had to know what you were doing and that things were shut off at the right time." That reminded Barbara Hall, who worked at Campana one summer during World War II, of the time someone failed to turn off the spigot for one of the perfumes. The next morning the all-night drip had eaten a hole in the belt.

Willard Carlson continued, "Mr. Ernest Oswald, the owner of Campana, came through one day, showing off the plant. He told the people with him that everything was so automatic that the operator could go over in the corner and go to sleep, and everything would take care of itself. But it was very complicated. When an electric storm came up and we lost electricity, everything being automatic meant we didn't know where we were at the time we lost power. When the electricity came on again, we had to make sure everything was in order.

"We had big power machinery, a 50 horsepower motor for use in homogenizing the Italian Balm. It ran at 3500 rpm, twice the speed of ordinary motors, and it was very noisy. We had an inspection one time, and they told us we couldn't work around that machine unless we covered our ears, that all that noise would ruin our hearing. I think I did, too. One year my partner and I made 165,000 gallons of Italian Balm. I had two helpers then. Walter Dickenson worked for me; he was the clean-up man, mostly. And Gary Gregor from Mooseheart -- he was a quarterback on the Mooseheart football team -- and Bill Hatton from Eola. And then we had Tony Huff to help us, too."

Others Who Worked There

Marion Todd mentioned others who worked at Mooseheart at one time or another. "Mr. Oswald had a secretary, Genevieve Connell. Bill Crull (Willard Crull, a nephew of Ernest Oswald) came to Campana right after he graduated from Brown University in 1928, and Richard Crull (Willard's

brother) came in 1930. Bill Crull became president in 1955, after Mr. Oswald died.

"Clarence Miller started to work in the purchasing department. Later on he became personnel director. He used to bring bags of money from the Campana promotions to the bank to be counted. First it was dimes, and then eventually it was dollar bills.

"Way back in the 1930s, Logan Benson was shipping clerk, and Newton Smith worked with him. Newt took over as shipping clerk later on when Logan left. For quite a while they were over at the Appleton where Campana rented the whole first floor of the present City Hall and shipped their products out of there.

"Harry Fisher was in charge of the shipping of all the samples; they started that in the K.P. building on South Batavia Avenue where the First Chicago Bank now has its branch. Then they opened up a section of the office at the building on South Batavia Avenue and First Street, and that's when they hired all kinds of people. And then in the 1930s they moved that office over to the Appleton office. After Harry Fisher died, two women who worked for him took over. One of them was Nellie Birnie from Geneva.

"Bernice Olson worked in the book-keeping department until 1947. Evelyn Anderson and Gertrude Rupenthal also worked there. Lenore Freedlund worked in the billing department, and Evelyn Freedlund was in charge of the key punch department. We had key punch back then, not computers." Willard Carlson remembered that Evelyn's sisters, Lenore and Edna Freedlund worked there, as well.

"Wally Freedlund also worked there," Marion Todd resumed, "and he would show visitors through the building. That was in about 1938 or 1939, and then in 1940 we started getting new products like cosmetics and lipstick. They started Dreskin in the early 1930s."

Willard Carlson recalled others who worked at Campana. "When I started, Mr. Ernest Oswald was the president, and Mr. Roscoe Sappenfield was vice president in charge -- he was the big shot. When Bill Crull became president, he was the president but Mr. Sappenfield ran the place. Elliott

Continued on p. 4

WHAT'S DOING AT THE MUSEUM?

by Carla Hill, Director

The museum reopened March 9 with the opening display titled "Colorful Kite Tales." This exhibit depicts the history, art and technology of kite flying, starting with Benjamin Franklin. It was originally produced by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Handouts will be available for children to make their own kites at home. This is a fun exhibit that we have done in the past and it is always popular with the children.

Chris Winter and I have been working on many projects over the winter break. A couple of changes have been made in the Van Nortwick Room - an additional painting which came from the Mary Chapman estate and a new oak lectern with an album full of photographs and other items from the Van Nortwick family. Chris worked very hard to put this album together and I think it adds a wonderful personal touch to the room. An additional album is being prepared for the Lincoln Room.

Plexiglas and wood cases have been produced for the lower hallway which contain some of our collection of memorabilia from Batavia's dairy industry. Photographs and newspaper ads help complete this display. We have several other exciting displays planned for the 1998 season.

We are looking for anyone who has any type of photographs, artifacts or information on Batavia doctors and dentists. We would also like information on home remedies and cures. Chris and I are working on a special display for next fall and could use input from anyone who can provide information. All photographs and artifacts will be returned.

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated the week of April 19-25. Each of the museum volunteers will receive a small gift and a heartfelt thank you from the museum.

We look forward to another great year at the museum. Anyone who would like to volunteer at the museum should contact Kathy Fairbairn at 406-9041.

Stone from Elburn was the plant manager, and after he died a man by the name of Clinton Graeff was made plant manager. He was a wonderful man. Mr. Snider was the purchasing agent, and Mr. Eugene Pearsall was in charge of sales." Marion Todd recalled that Martha Lundberg worked for Pearsall for some time; when she left, Julia Smotzer took over.

"Over the years," Willard Carlson said, "there were a lot of women from Batavia who worked at Campana. Alice Benson worked there for many years. Mrs. Ward and Helen Nottingham worked there, too. She was a lovely person."

"When Campana first moved up to the new building," Marion Todd recalled, "Alice Benson and I used to ride to work with Willard Carlson. I didn't have a car then. Up in the new building they had a cafeteria which was just off the main office. Then we would see all the people who worked in the building. Mr. Sappenfield had a peanut butter and jelly sandwich every day for lunch, with three slices of bread. Pearl Carlson was the cook at Campana; she was a good cook, but they couldn't afford her. After that, she worked in the plant.

"Virgil Snyder was in charge of purchasing, and Sadie Lundberg worked for him at one time. Another person who worked at Campana was Bob Frick."

Impact of World War II

With the onset of World War II, the company dropped "Italian" from its principal product, calling it Campana Balm. And after our country's entry into the war, the company concentrated on products for the Chemical Warfare Services, including M-4 and M-5 ointments.

"Because of the shortage of materials," Willard Carlson recalled, "we were limited in the amount of Italian Balm we could make during the war. We made a product for the Chemical Warfare Service which was used if someone got caught in a fire. They just dumped this chemical on them to put it out. Then we made M-4 and M-5 protective ointment, which we put in tubes. This was also for the Chemical Warfare Service, and we made tons and tons of that, too. This was used for burns.

"Because we couldn't get the glycerine needed for Italian Balm during the war, we had to use a substitute sugar product. I can't think of the name. So we had to have two separate tanks for that, and we had six 2,000 gallon tanks on the third floor and six 4,000 gallon tanks in the warehouse down below. Every three months the FBI would come out and check us for how much alcohol we used and where we used it. They put seals on the gauges on the sides of the tanks and on the openings of the tanks. Then they wanted to put locks and seals on the doors into the room where the alcohol was kept. We told them we couldn't do that as it would be a fire hazard and someone might be caught down there. So we talked them out of doing that.

"We went into perfume, and they used names like Plantation Gardens. They then decided that needed a different name, something French, so they named them Anjou. They had three different perfumes."

Along with three friends from West Aurora High School, Barbara Hall worked at Campana in the summer of 1943 or 1944. When asked why they came all the way from Aurora to Campana, she replied that it was a matter of money. "Block & Kuhl Department Store in Aurora was paying only 25 cents an hour -- \$12 for a 48 hour week -- while I got \$19.50 a week at Campana." She recalled that her summer job was on an assembly line, putting together gift boxes of Plantation Gardens and Woodland Spice. Still remembering how demanding the work was, she said that failure to complete a step as the product passed by on the line would jam up the whole process.

Barbara said that the daily trip from Aurora was not so bad, either. One morning as the four girls waited for a bus a young man in a car stopped and said he had seen them there for several days and wondered where they were going. When they told him, he said he was going that way and offered them a ride -- continuing to do so all summer, even waiting if they were late. Barbara thinks he enjoyed listening to their school girl chatter. How different those days were!

When she heard Marion Todd's story about Walter Walsh checking how long people stayed in the wash-

room, Barbara laughed and recalled the experience of a girl who tried to slip some perfume out in her brassiere. Somehow or other someone in management knew; she was caught and had to return the perfume. She did not lose her job, however.

Resumption of Civilian Production

"After World War II," Willard Carlson said, "Campana bought the Carlay Company. They were located in Chicago and made a candy caramel which was supposed to help a person reduce if eaten in place of food. The caramels were named 'Ayds.' Carl Peine and I went into Chicago every day for three months; I had to learn how to make that stuff, and Carl had to learn how to operate the machinery. Those machines could throw out 104 caramels a minute. We had to learn from two guys who spoke Italian, and they wouldn't tell us what to do. They would mix up a batch and cook it and put their hands in to feel whether it was done or not. I had to learn to do that, but finally I got brains enough to tell at what temperature it was done."

Ben Oswalt recalled, "When World War II came, Italian Balm was the best selling hand lotion in the country. Italy got in the war on the wrong side, and our sales just went kaboom. So my Uncle Ernest took the name 'Italian' out of it and named it Campana Balm - it was the same product. After the war was over they then put the old name back on it, but that didn't work. Sales just kept doing down, and they stopped promoting it.

"Ours was a big business as far as Batavia was concerned, but not nationwide. We didn't have enough budget to promote our products. My uncle realized the importance of becoming affiliated with a big company like Dow Chemical, which could spend ten or twenty million dollars in one year to promote an item. Then that item would respond and grow. But we were limited in advertising by what we had made the previous year, so we could maybe spend \$800,000 advertising an item when it really needed \$15,000,000."

Ernest Oswalt died in 1955, and in 1956 the company was sold to Allied

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Litigation Is Nothing New

Alpheus C. Badger vs. Batavia Paper Manufacturing Company

by Marilyn Robinson

Marilyn Robinson came across this lawsuit, which involved early Batavia men, while working on the project in which the various historical societies of Kane County are reviewing the originals of court records that have been microfilmed. Each society takes possession of those records in which it has an interest. Marilyn heads up our society's efforts on this project. Seeing words said by the men about whom she has read and written so much brought them to life.

In the late 1860s, the Chicago Fibre and Paper Company in Batavia purchased a boiler for its plant. The company gave the supplier a mortgage and note. Alpheus C. Badger of Kentucky bought the note.

Chicago Fibre went bankrupt in January 1870. John VanNortwick purchased the company on August 18, 1870, and it became the Batavia Paper Manufacturing Company. The building it occupied is still on the southeast corner of Water and First Streets.

In May of 1872, Badger sued Batavia Paper and William M. VanNortwick, John VanNortwick's son, to collect on the note. The first to testify for Badger was George B. Moss: "I have resided in Batavia for twelve years. During the entire year, 1869, I knew the Chicago Fibre and Paper Company. I was its president from some time in 1868 until its bankruptcy in 1870. My office was at the works in Batavia. There was no officer there but me. That was after the chattel mortgage to the Eagle Works Manufacturing Company was executed and delivered. My signature is on the mortgage as president of Chicago Fibre. The note was for a boiler, with attachments. We were to have a year's time to pay for it . . . I can't say what the value of the boiler was in early 1871 . . . If not materially rusted inside, it was worth as much as \$4,000 as it cost when set up.

"The boiler was 25 feet long, 7 feet

in diameter and weighed about 10,000 pounds. We could not get it into the building. There was no suitable place for it at the works when it was brought there so it was placed outside the building, out of doors at the south side of the bleach room, the east end running under the building a little way. We tore down a part of the stone wall of the building and erected a building over the boiler 35 feet by 15 feet on the ground, about 15 feet high. It was roofed over, shingled over, and finished up in a substantial and permanent manner . . . In order to move the boiler after the mortgage became due, the building over it would have to be removed."

Frank P. Crandon testified next: "I am the County Clerk of this county. I knew the Chicago Fibre and Paper Company . . . Badger wished me to take the mortgage in my hand on the day the mortgage matured, and go to the mill and get someone of the Batavia Paper Manufacturing Company to go with me where the boiler was, place my hand on the boiler, and say that I took possession of it for him. On that day, I went to the mill of the defendants and found no one there except James Allen, the foreman of the company . . . I asked him to go with me to the boiler and witness my taking formal possession of it for Mr. Badger . . . I don't think I told any of the officers (John VanNortwick, William M. VanNortwick, Walter R. Cornell and Daniel B. Cornell) about my taking formal possession of the boiler.

"I attempted to have the boiler removed for Mr. Badger. I went to see J.L. Cary to get him to move it. I sent him to the mill with tools to move the boiler. I went to the mill and found Cary there with tools and gave him directions about the manner of moving the boiler. I told him to move it westwardly endwise and to go to town to get timbers strong enough not to hurt anyone. Nearly the entire rear end of the new building over the boiler was necessary to be removed to get the boiler out. It was a modern building.

"I went to the mill the next morning and told William M. VanNortwick that I had learned that he refused to allow Cary to move the boiler and asked him why. He said it would injure the build-

ing, and he did not wish to have that done unless it could be repaired. I told him I would agree for Badger that it should be put in good repair. He said that they had been obliged to fit up another room for a rag room on account of the boiler occupying the room that would otherwise have been used for that purpose and that they had sent a bill for expense to Badger and that he had paid no attention to it, and the boiler could not be moved until that matter was settled. I told him I would see his father, John, about it. He said he wished I would. I did see John that evening at his house. I told him of the conversation I had had with William. I asked him if that was the position the company took. He said the boiler could not be moved until the claim they had against Badger was settled.

"I asked him what Badger owed him. He said he didn't know exactly -- \$50, \$75, \$100, or more. I asked him if Badger would settle the claim if the boiler might remain where it was until they should want the room without charge of storage. He said it might for the time being and that he would give Badger reasonable notice when he wanted it removed.

"I had no authority from Mr. Badger to arrange a room for storing the boiler with the paper company. I was instructed to take the boiler away. I wrote to Badger of my conversation with VanNortwick. I never had any reply . . ."

John VanNortwick then testified for the defense. "I reside at Batavia part of the time and part of the time in the State of Louisiana. I told Frank Crandon we had requested Badger repeatedly to remove the boiler and that he had not complied and that had occasioned extra expense in fitting up a room in which we could prepare rags. I thought Badger should pay the expense. We did not need the room right now. I asked Crandon if Badger had sold the boiler or was only going to remove it from our building. I think his reply was that Badger was merely going to move it out of our way.

"I said we had prepared another room, and did not want that room and had no objections to the boiler remaining if he would remove it upon rea-

Continued on p. 6

More Batavia Body Reflections

by Donald Miller

Don Miller, a native Batavian and Life Member of our Society who now lives in Pennsylvania, was moved to comment to Bill Wood on Gunnar Wiberg's Batavia Body Company story that appeared in the October, 1997, issue. We wish we had space for all his comments (and maybe we will have more later), but we wanted to share the following excerpt with our readers in this issue.

The lead article on Batavia Body really brought back memories. Having worked there between high school and the Navy (early 50s), and in both the plant and the office, many names within the article evoked many, many memories.

My work at the Body Company started in the paint shop where I worked for Martin Downen. Gunnar called the shot on him correctly. He was a very company oriented, and, as with himself, expected a day's work for a day's pay from his people. There were ten of us. Other than myself,

Marching to School - -to Music

In his memoirs about growing up in Batavia, former Batavian Norman Harry Peterson recalled living diagonally across the street from the Blaine Street Grade School, now the school for apprentice painters.

"It was a great location for a school as far as the Petersons were concerned," he wrote. "The principal for many years -- 1st through 5th or 6th -- was Miss Woodburn. Each day, the boys would line up on one side of the long sidewalk leading into the school. The girls on the other side. Then Miss Woodburn would turn on John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" -- on a phonograph. She would march us in, clapping her hands to the march music. And the same thing happened at the morning recess and after lunch and the afternoon recess. So that made four concerts a day for five or six years. Thank you, Mr. Sousa!"

Floyd Roessler, John Sjoberg, Bob Hansel, and Harold Holbrook were the Batavia people. The sign painter was an older guy from Elgin -- one Bill Callens. It was he who taught my father the art. The other guys were from Aurora and North Aurora.

One thing I still chuckle about as I look back on those days: while Martin never realized it, everyone always knew when there were problems or somebody was in trouble. Invariably, under those circumstances, he would be whistling *The Tennessee Waltz*. The faster he whistled, the more irritated he was, the more tense the situation. Accordingly, at the first sound of *The Tennessee Waltz*, everyone went into hiding or doubled his normal working pace. He never was aware of his projecting this warning, but it was essentially the paint shop equivalent to general quarters in the Navy, a well guarded operating procedure among departmental insiders.

Despite his gruff demeanor and rough edges, he was a good guy. I remember when the good old Chicago, Aurora and Elgin went on strike, my dad was out of work, and my mother immediately assumed we'd all starve to death. I went to Martin and asked him if he had any work for a good painter. "Good painter?" he asked. "My dad," I replied. "Tell him to be here in the morning -- he's a damned good painter," was the reply. Enough said.

Litigation

Continued from p. 5

sonable notice when we wanted the room. He said they would comply. We have never used the boiler. Never refused to deliver the boiler. I never told anyone they could not remove the boiler until the bill was paid or that they could not tear down the building. We offered to buy the boiler for \$1,500."

The jury retired to consider a verdict. It must have been in favor of the VanNortwicks for the plaintiff asked the court to grant a new trial. Judge Silvanus Wilcox refused to grant the request. The plaintiff then asked for an appeal to the State Supreme Court, which was granted.

We do not know what finally happened to the unwanted boiler.

Membership and Other Matters

Since the last issue, five Batavian have been added to our rolls as Life Members: Robert and Lucy Anderson, Robert V. and Lillian Brown, and Robert Fondriest. Other new members (from Batavia unless otherwise noted) include Robert Ahrens (Columbus, Ohio), Mrs. Ellen Anderson, Glen Anderson, Gordon Anderson, Mrs. Kay Anderson (LaVerne, California), Denis and Nancy Bowron (Maple Park), Sandra Chalupa (St. Charles), Eloise Freedlund, Gary and Elizabeth Granberg, Marian V. Heiser, Anthony Herbert, Karen Kletzing, Mrs. Marion Powers, Lois and Don Prindle, Peter J. Stephano (Des Moines, Iowa), Judy Hogan and George Turner, Lillian Vander Pluys (Merrimac, Wisconsin), and Mariann C. White. We welcome these members and look forward to their participation in the affairs of the Society.

We regret to report the deaths of Life Members Gregory S. Issel and Elna A. Larson and extend our deepest sympathy to their families and friends. In addition, we share in Bruce and Patti Will's grief over the death of their daughter Andrea Faye, a student at Eastern Illinois University. Through the end of last year, Patti had served as the Society's vice-president and program chairman.



Girl dressed to represent Geo. Burton General Store at an affair about 1892.

- - A Country Store - -

Several years ago, Elizabeth Hall, a member of our Society, was given the assignment in a creative writing group at the Holmstad to write about a country store. Because her story was based on a Batavia store, included the names of many Batavians, and evoked the mood of an era now gone, we thought the product of her assignment would be of interest to our readers.

A country store. That is the assignment for our creative writing group, and I have no first-hand knowledge of a real one, although I have seen modern restorations of such a store in St. Augustine and Williamsburg. What shall I do? I have it -- I shall ask my octogenarian, native Batavia friend, Carl Johnson, about his father's store that once stood with the old hotel, The Revere House, north of Main Street on South Batavia Avenue.

It was opened in the late 1800s by Carl's father and his partner as Johnson and Micholson's Grocery Store. In the back of the store, but in no way divided from it, was the Chicago Telephone Company's exchange, where two women handled the switchboard. (I might add, parenthetically, that there was another telephone company in Batavia back then -- the Interstate.) The telephone exchange and the men who gathered around the pot-bellied stove, winter and summer, made Johnson and Micholson's a nerve center of the town.

Kinne and Jeffery's Grocery Store on the east side of town was another. It was run by the family of our present

mayor, Jeff Schielke. There was a big, black cast-iron drinking trough for horses in front of Kinne and Jeffery's. Now and then, some of the young boys would "stock" the trough with fish from the Fox River; this caused quite a stir when horses encountered the wild life in their drinking water.

But we must get back to Johnson and Micholson's. Every weekday morning six, often more, townsmen ambled in. They pulled up chairs -- crates from the back room when the chairs gave out -- and talk and occasional munching of crackers, courtesy of the house, began.

"I understand Appleton Manufacturing Company is moving to town. It will turn out windmills, corn-shellers, saws, and who knows what all. That will be a boon for our city."

"Did you know that the new Methodist Church cost \$30,000? \$30,000 - phew! And by crackey, the Reverend Mr. Gammon and Captain Newton gave the church to the congregation!"

"Hey, has anybody had a ride on the stern-wheeler, City of Batavia? I have, but I had to spend a whole nickel for the trip. Worth it, though, gliding along the Fox River."

"Do you think Teddy Roosevelt will be our next president?"

"Are you fellows all going to see the balloon go up in Laurelwood Park?"

"My wife says Nellie Smith is wearing a divided skirt -- wore it right downtown on Wilson Avenue. 'Tisn't decent, I say. What's the world coming to, with such goings on?"

"The good old factory owners and merchants are doing it again -- sponsoring an excursion for the whole town. This year we're going to Peoria on the C.B. & Q. I hear the round trip fare is \$1.50."

"Yeah, lots of excitement -- the Chatauqua soon will be coming to town. Batavia's no backwater."

"Who are you fellows backing for mayor? We need an up-and-coming chap for our up-and-coming town."

"We ought to do something about all the dust we get on Wilson and Batavia Avenues."

"Our Batavia Horse Market Association is having its annual sale next week. We really have a reputation for our fine horses."

"Say, let's make our plans for our midnight foot race on Friday night. You and I are on the committee, Ole."

And so it went as the men socialized and discussed. Carl said Swan Johnson, his father, often found some of the pot-bellied stove league waiting to get in when he arrived mornings at 6 o'clock to open the store. Among the regulars were Joel McKee, a major Batavia land owner, who is memorialized by a street bearing his name. Almost always present was C.W. Shumway, whose father founded the Shumway Foundry. His son, Horatio, rarely joined the group, but he came in regularly for snuff and chewing tobacco.

Another was Charlie Johnson, who founded Hubbard's Furniture Store. There was Civil War Captain Stafford. What stories he had to tell of the War between the States! Sharing these remembrances was another Civil War veteran, Johnny Ozier, who belonged to one of the first black families of Batavia. Mr. Ozier spent the first 45 years of his life as a slave and lived to be 100.

But I was to write of a country store. So far I've described it only as the venue for a little forum and a tele-



Unidentified but typical Batavia General Store

Continued on p. 9

1912 State Champions -- And More

In the last issue we wrote that "most of our members have probably heard that Batavia won the state basketball championship in 1912." Since then we have learned that many readers, especially newer residents in Batavia, were not aware of that fact -- so we shall remedy that deficiency.

The facilities in 1912 were cramped for playing, and for watching, basketball. Because the high school had no gymnasium, the team was forced to play its home games in the Methodist church gymnasium, sometimes jokingly referred to as the "cracker box gym." The balcony was too narrow to seat many spectators. Claude Hanson, a 1908 team member, recalled that when they played, it was the job of one team member not on the court to collect the admissions and/or donations from the spectators. Probably the situation was much the same four years later.

But the team was good -- very good. Comprised of Dwight Emigh, Clarence Hansen, Walter "Dutch" Trantow, Horace Bone, Charles "Chuck" Barr, Ray "Irish" McDermott, and Parks "Puck" Bailey and coached by Kenneth C. Merrick, it had won 20 of 22 games during the regular season. In the first round of the tournament, Batavia beat Joliet, Sycamore, Belvidere, and Freeport. Advancing to the state round, which was played in Galesburg, the team defeated Canton 32-23, then Granite City 29-26, and finally, to win the championship, Galesburg by the same 29-26 score.

As described in *John Gustafson's Historic Batavia*, "in celebration whistles blew, and crowds broke into churches to ring the bells. Everyone, regardless of age or previous condition of dignity, laughed, shouted, and cheered." If water towers had been round in those days, Batavia, like Hebron 35 years later, might even have proclaimed its status by painting the city water tower to look like a basketball.

But the season did not end then. A clipping from an unidentified newspaper that we found in the Depot Museum files

Why Didn't This Happen?

Member David King recently sent us a clipping from an unidentified newspaper. Although the clipping was undated, the date must have been shortly after the end of World War I.

The article, which covered a Batavia City Council meeting, states that "two streets on the east side be named in honor of the two east side soldiers who gave their lives in the War, that Chestnut Street be changed to Carl Mier Street, and that South College Street be changed to John Kelly Street. It was the unanimous vote that these changes be made. Later some streets on the west side will probably be renamed in honor of the soldier dead of West Batavia."

Now that the city vault is accessible following construction work, our Historian, Bill Wood, plans to do research on old minutes to learn why these changes were not made. In the meanwhile, if anyone has any relevant information, please let him know. We hope to include the answer in a later issue.



Top row l. to r. Clarence Hansen, Kenneth C. Merrick (coach), Walter Trantow, Charles Barr; bottom row l. to r. Dwight Emigh, Parks Bailey, Ray E. McDermott, Horace Bone.

reveals that the Batavia champions continued their winning ways. The headline from that clipping reads:

Batavia Ends Brilliant Athletic Year with Banquet to Visiting Team

WESTERN CHAMPS HUMBLLED

Local High School Dines Colorado Visitors after Winning All Western Basketball Honors

The clipping continued: "Batavia High School closed its most successful season in athletics after winning the Illinois state high school championship in basketball and then, last night, gaining a good title to the all-western championship by defeating Ft. Morgan, Col., 46 to 20." Ft. Morgan had previously won the Rocky Mountain championship. While lauding Batavia's basketball prowess, the reporter tried to be fair in pointing out that the visiting team had "suffered much from the climatic change from their home altitude of about one mile as compared with the 500-foot above sea level altitude of this part of Illinois." Since the visitors had played through Iowa and elsewhere in Illinois before facing Batavia, however, they should have had time to acclimate, and we think that the reporter may have bent over backwards in offering Ft. Morgan that alibi for its loss.

The article concluded: "Athletic prospects for next season at Batavia High School are unusually bright with the promise of a fine new gymnasium of regulation floor space in the basement of the new high school building and the return to school of McDermott, Trantow, Barr, Emigh and Hansen." Apparently, however, the return of most of the team and the promise of a new gymnasium were not enough, since Batavia did not retain its title in 1913. But we have come close more than once since then.

phone exchange. How different from the modern supermart it must have looked, with its long wooden counters and wooden shelves, the shelves reaching to the ceiling. Of course, there was a sliding ladder to make top shelf items available. On the shelves were canned goods, crockery jugs and bowls, dishes, pots, pans, kitchen gadgets and tools, and knickknacks.

On the counter stood a big red coffee grinder where the proprietors ground, to the customers' orders, the coffee beans scooped from large red tin roll-top boxes that stood against one wall beside tea chests of a similar type. On the counter, too, was a large wheel of cheese, a slab of bacon, and big square boxes containing cookies and crackers. There were baskets of eggs brought in daily by farmers, who brought in fresh vegetables in season, as well.

The salt, flour, sugar, and pickles were in barrels ranged near the coffee and tea chests. In autumn there also were barrels of apples and pears. When the time was right, oysters in wooden pails were available. At Christmas time flat, dried slabs of lutefisk were kept in a special case, with a tub of lingonberries close by.

Carl remembers being responsible for getting dairy products to the store. He brought in cases of bulk butter and cans of milk and cream via horse and wagon from the creamery at Bliss and

Kaneville Roads. (Holmstad residents will be interested to know that the creamery was later made into an attractive dwelling and is occupied by Gunnar Wiberg's brother, Helmer, and his wife.)

Carl recalls that a man once came into the store and asked the price of butter. "Twenty cents a pound," said Swan Johnson. "Your competitor down the street is selling it for fifteen cents a pound," the man replied. "You ought to buy it there, then," countered Swan. "I did go in to get some, but they didn't have any left." "Well," exclaimed Mr. Johnson, "when we don't have any, we sell it for five cents a pound!"

We think with nostalgia of the country store with its relaxed air of leisure and homely turn-of-the-century appeal compared to the rush and bustle of supermarts that are symbolic of our restless lives these days. In that country store, Mr. Johnson or Mr. Micholson found each item as the customer called it out from a list. He scooped the sugar from the barrel. He cut off the chunk of cheese required. He ground the coffee; he put the tea into a small brown bag. He packed the purchases into the customer's basket, exchanging pleasantries as he did so.

Life was simpler then. What have we lost, now that the country store and its cracker barrel sages are no more?

Flood of 1887

Jim Hanson came across a newspaper clipping that should be of particular interest while the 1996 flood is still fresh in the minds of Batavians.

That one, of course, was caused by heavy rains while the one recalled in *The Batavia Herald* of February 9, 1940, resulted from ice jams on the river, but both caused considerable damage. Long-time Batavia resident John Brennan recalled the flood of February 9, 1887.

"The 1887 flood was the worst I have seen in the seventy years I have lived in Batavia. The ice coming down the river was from 14 to 18 feet in great chunks about three feet thick. The ice battered against the old stone bridge, which withstood the terrific ice attack. As near as I can judge, the water was about 30 feet deep in the river, and flooded all of the basements on Wilson Street up half-way on the east hill, completely covering River Street, which is more than a block from the river.

"I recall the Kickapoo Indian Medicine company was playing at the Batavia Opera House, . . . and they were forced to discontinue their show because of the flood. The Newton Wagon Company coal shed, about half full of coal, was washed into the river, and the old North Aurora bridge was washed out. When the water went down, people shoveled fish by the bushel on River Street, where they were stranded by the receding waters."

Laboratories of St. Louis. In 1962, Purex Corporation took over, continuing operations until 1982. The building was sold in that year.

Deja Vu

After a half century and more, memories of working at Campana are sometimes incomplete, often softened with nostalgia. And the recollections of the former employees are bound to be affected by when and for how long they worked there and what their jobs were.

Starting with Campana after the war and being a member of the owning family, Ben Oswalt may have had a different perspective from others when he said, "The thing that I remember about Campana were the people that worked there. They were all friends; they were all family. Uncle Ernie would go through the plant, and they would all call him Ernie. They didn't call him Mr. Oswalt -- there was no formality there." The others interviewed, however, always spoke of Ernest Oswalt as "Mr. Oswalt." Despite her many years of working in the office, Marion Todd said that she never called him "Ernie."

It is significant to note, however, that none of those interviewed were sour or voiced any deep-seated unhappiness about their experience -- and that is important when one recalls that most of their service took place during the stressful days of the Depression and World War II. Those who worked there for any time probably did feel, as Ben Oswalt remembered, that they were "family." Perhaps Marion Todd summed it up best when she said, "People always complained about the low wages at Campana, but they provided a lot of jobs for many years."

¹ Copies of this book published in 1990 are still available at the Depot Museum. The chapters cited, alone, are well worth the \$12 price of the book.

² Ben Oswalt said the D.D.D. was named after Dr. David Dennis and was based in Canada. Ernest Oswalt bought the formula for making D.D.D. lotion and soap from Dr. Dennis at about the same time that he bought the formula for Italian Balm from Dr. Campana.

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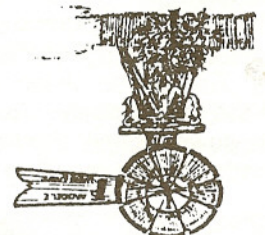
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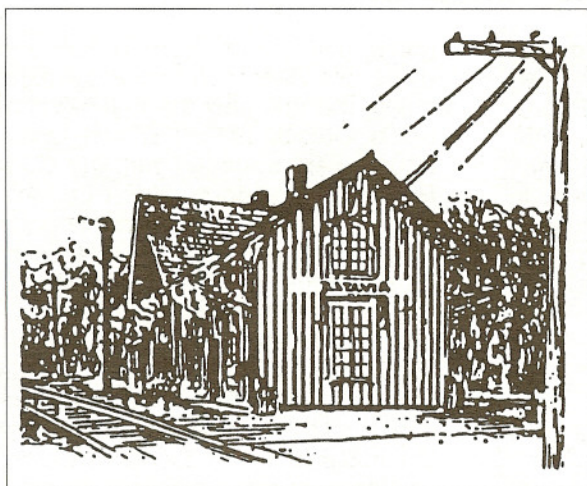
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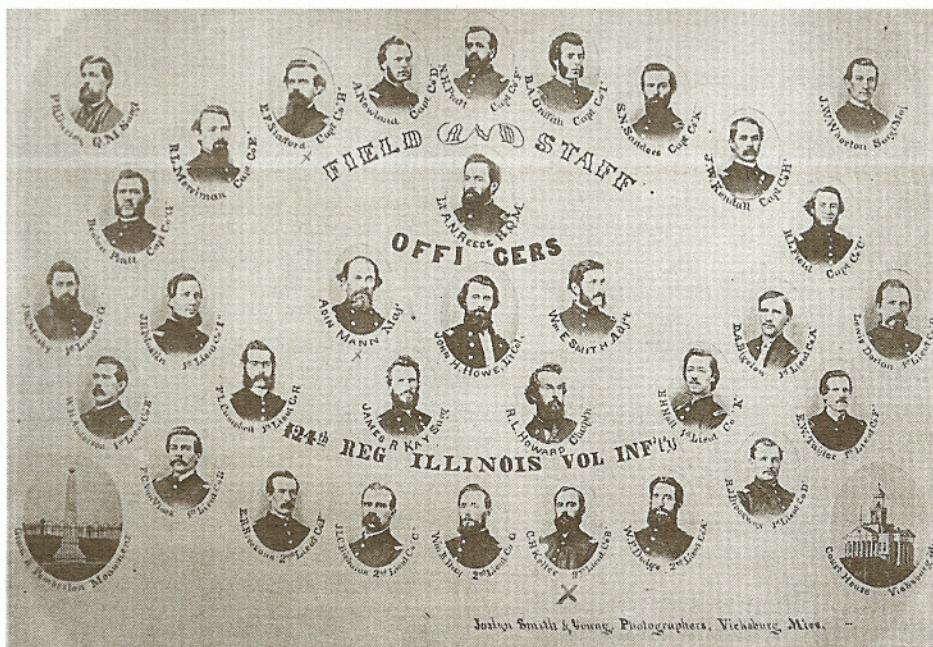
"It Was a Hard Sight to See"

Company B, 124th Illinois Infantry, and the Vicksburg Campaign

by Eric S. Nelson

Eric Nelson, a native Batavian and a member of the Society, is a captain in the Air Force, presently stationed in England. With his permission, this article has been excerpted from a paper that he recently prepared in a master's degree program. Many readers will recall his article, "Batavia and the Civil War," that appeared in the April 1996 issue of the *Historian*.

In the late summer of 1862, a 46-year old surveyor named Adin Mann recruited a company of men from his hometown of Batavia, Illinois,¹ and the surrounding area to serve in the Union Army for a period of three years. Mann was able to sign up the required number of volunteers between August 3 and August 15. Ninety-three men and three elected officers, led by Mann himself, reported for service to Camp Butler outside Springfield, Illinois. At Camp Butler, the company officially became Company B of the 124th Illinois Infantry Volunteer Regiment. Three of the 124th Illinois' companies had been recruited to be a competence regiment. In these companies there were eleven ordained and five licensed ministers. The commander of the regiment was Colonel Thomas Sloan, a college president from Chicago. On September 10,



Batavia's Adin Mann, C.H. Keller and E.F. Stafford marked with X.

1862, the regiment was officially mustered into service.

Sixty-six of the men in Company B reported themselves as farmers. The rest of the volunteers were shoemakers, millers, coopers, students, mechanics, carpenters and one each doctor, surveyor, railroad man and mason. The average age of the company was 27. The oldest man was Adin Mann himself at 46, and the youngest was John Ball, who was fourteen. Ball had enlisted with his two older brothers, Samuel, 23, and

Theodore, 21. There was another set of relatives in the company -- Mann's eighteen year old son served as a private.

The birthplaces of the men were quite varied. The variation demonstrates the growth in the area prior to the start of the war. Although the entire company was recruited within ten miles of Batavia, only ten soldiers had even been born in Illinois. The vast majority were born in the United States; however, there were fourteen foreign-born

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"It Was a Hard Sight to See" Continued from p. 1

soldiers in the company. Canada and England were each the original homes of four soldiers in the company while three were born in Ireland, two in Scotland and one in Norway.

At Camp Butler, the regiment had its introduction to military service. Learning to march and drill took up much of the time of the regiment, but not all. On September 8, 1862, an order came out stating: "All card playing for money or any other valuable things is totally prohibited in the regiment from and after this date. All card playing for amusement on the Sabbath is prohibited from and after this date."

On September 27, the regiment was armed with old French rifled muskets deemed unserviceable by the regiment. Then, on October 4, 1862, the regiment suffered its first death. Company B's Canadian-born farmer, Isaiah Noakes, died of typhoid fever. The company, like most Civil War units, would lose more men to disease than combat.

On October 6, the regiment left Camp Butler and was sent to Cairo, Illinois. In Cairo the men changed trains and were sent to Columbus, Kentucky. Once in Columbus the regiment was ordered to Jackson, Tennessee. Prior to leaving Columbus, however, the regiment mutinied in an effort to acquire better weapons. The men had fired the French rifles in target practice. In some instances, they had fallen apart, had heated up too rapidly to be of use, and had proven completely inaccurate. Only after the commander of Columbus was called out and the men promised better weapons would they quietly get on the train to Jackson.

The Batavia Historian, recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's 1997 Award for Superior Achievement, is published quarterly by the Batavia Historical Society. The editor, Bill Hall, will welcome any suggestions or material -- 630-879-2033.

The Depot Museum, a cooperative effort of the Society and the Batavia Park District, is open from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through November. The director, Carla Hill, can be reached at 630-879-5235.

On the way to Milliken's Bend near Vicksburg, Company B suffered two more losses. Simon Paul died February 15, and Samuel Ball died on February 22, both deaths caused by disease. The company also lost eleven more soldiers to discharge because of disability or disease. Among them was fourteen year old John Ball. Before the company would leave Milliken's Bend, Private Menard Stone, a twenty year old farmer, would become the company's fourth casualty. Like all the others, Stone died from disease.

On April 25, the 124th Illinois Infantry left Milliken's Bend and marched toward Grand Gulf. At approximately 3:00 p.m., the regiment was loaded aboard the *Mound City* to cross the Mississippi river. They landed at Bruinsburg and camped there for the night. Private Frederick Morris, in his diary, noted that all the transports were "riddled with balls, grape and canister" during the run past the Vicksburg batteries. The evening the brigade landed, Morris wrote that "the brigade band is playing, it sounds beautiful, a pleasant day and a delightful evening." Also that evening, the troops were addressed by Illinois Governor Richard Yates and Illinois Congressman E.B. Washburne, who were traveling with the army during the campaign.

On May 1, the 124th Illinois started marching at 6:30 a.m. Because the day was hot and humid, the men be-

gan throwing away their blankets and overcoats. After marching about eight miles, the unit saw the first signs of battle. Outside of Port Gibson, Union troops were engaged with the Confederate defenders. When Logan's division came up, the First Brigade was sent to cover the Union left flank. Although the 124th and Company B were in reserve, they did fire two volleys into the Confederates -- the first shots they had fired in anger. Shortly after the 124th Illinois entered the action, the Confederates retreated and the battle of Port Gibson was over. There were no casualties in Company B and only two in the regiment.

On May 3, Company B skirmished with the Confederates outside of Port Gibson. They then marched eighteen miles and camped for the next three nights about two and a half miles from the Big Black River. On the march through Port Gibson, the regiment stopped for a few hours, and Frederick Morris reported they broke into houses and stores and took "a lot of sugar, corn bread, etc. . . they also found a large quantity of bacon, hams, etc." On May 5, the regimental tents finally caught up with the unit. Previously, they had been sleeping in the open.

On May 12, Logan's Division fought at the Battle of Raymond. Company B was deployed as skirmishers out in front of the regiment. Once again, the company suffered no casualties; however, the regiment lost its first two soldiers in

Continued on p. 3

Veteran Museum Volunteers Honored

At its March 24 meeting, the Batavia Park District presented community service awards to Society directors Marilyn Robinson and William Wood for their services to the Depot Museum. The awards, given in collaboration with the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and the Illinois Association of Park Districts, recognized the recipients' "outstanding contributions and unselfish devotion for the advancement of parks, recreation and leisure in the community and the state of Illinois."

Among Marilyn Robinson's many projects with the museum, the closest to her heart is helping third-graders through their curriculum unit on Batavia history. The unit is based on her book for children, *Little Town in a Big Woods*, which received the Illinois State Historical Society's certificate of excellence in 1990. In accepting her latest award, Marilyn said, "Whatever I do, it's because I love history and I love Batavia."

Bill Wood's specialty is genealogical research -- helping people from as far away as Australia who write, seeking information about ancestors here. Most days will find him at the museum doing research. Like Marilyn, Bill is modest about his contributions, stating, "What I've done is a very small return to Batavia for what Batavia has given me -- a sense of belonging and hundreds of friends."

"It Was a Hard Sight to See" Continued from p. 2

battle. After a couple of hours of fighting, the Confederates were pushed back, and the division marched into Raymond. Company B's Private Gilbert Young wrote to his mother about the battlefield, "I found a pocket book that belonged to a rebel captain of the artillery. He was shot dead and someone picked his pockets. There was a great slaughter. I went over part of the ground, and it was enough for me to see the way men were shot, some all to smash. Some of the rebs that were wounded were good to us and some were saucy, but it was a hard sight to see, such a one I never want to see again."

The day after Raymond, Company B and the 124th Illinois marched to Clinton, Mississippi, a distance of about eight miles. Company B was assigned to picket duty that night. The following morning the 124th commander, Colonel Sloan, was put on arrest because he slept in and did not have his men ready to march on time. Company B's Captain Adin Mann was then assigned to duty as acting major of the regiment. Meanwhile, back at Milliken's Bend on the hospital ship *Jashville*, Company B lost another soldier to disease. Private Samuel Updyke, a 41 year old farmer, became the fifth death from the company.

At 9:00 a.m., the 124th Illinois left camp as the rearguard of the division. As the men marched on May 16, they heard the sound of artillery firing. When they arrived, the Battle of Champion's Hill was three hours old. Shortly after noon, the regiment was ordered to fix bayonets and charge with their brigade. The Confederates, taken by surprise, started falling back, and soon the entire Rebel line began retreating. The 124th Illinois suffered

Mark Your Calendar

October 4 may seem a long way off, but we don't want you to miss the seventh annual Cemetery Walk. This annual event, co-sponsored by the ACCESS Heritage Committee and the Society, is always popular and well-attended. This year it will be held at the West Side Cemetery.

You will be receiving more detailed information in the next few months -- but **save the date!**

its first serious casualties of the war. They entered the battle with 350 men and lost 63 killed and wounded; however, Company B, which had been assigned to guard the brigade ammunition train, never played a direct role in the engagement and thus suffered no casualties.

On May 20, the 124th Illinois took a position in the lines around Vicksburg. Two days later, Company B was detailed as skirmishers for the assault. Private Young told his mother that the company was ordered to charge the rebel works. "They told us there was no rebs there but we started. We had a big hill to go down, and we started on the run, and got part way down and there was about 5,000 raised up out of the rifle pits and fired on us, we got behind trees, stumps and logs." Private Morris continued the story in his diary. "About noon I was struck by a piece of a shell or a canister shot on the instep of my left foot, which made me pretty lame. I then moved my position behind the log where half a dozen of our boys was. The sun shone very hot for three to four hours, when it clouded over and rained for an hour or two. We had to lay close to the ground not daring to raise up and shoot for our own boys was just above us on the hill and their balls whistled over our heads as well as the rebel balls. It was an awful ticklish predicament to be in and such as I hope never to be in again during this infernal and cursed rebellion. We laid until dark when our and the enemy's shooting had pretty much ceased. Then we got out of the hollow as fast as we knew how." Other than Private Morris being hit in the foot with a spent ball, miraculously no one in the company was hurt or killed.

On June 2, the men were issued clothing items. Private Young received two pairs of socks, a pair of shoes and a hat. Although siege warfare is a sedentary process, the troops still were not able to fully clean themselves. On June 7, Private Young wrote home, "I have not had my clothes off to sleep since the 24th of April and gray backs (lice) are plenty." As the siege wore on, little seemed to change for the men in the front lines. Young's June 7 letter started, "And still I am living and in good health. Today is the Sabbath but it does not seem so down here for

the cannonade goes on as usual."

On June 8, Company B lost a man who was off duty at the time -- a thirty-one year old Batavia farmer named Oscar Cooley. Sergeant Christopher Keller wrote his grandparents, "He was killed Monday evening by a musket ball . . . He was in a reclining position in the house or shelter he had made, and covered with his rubber blanket, and had his feet towards the west, the direction the ball came from. His only words were 'Oh, I am shot. I am killed,' and then his voice was silent forever."

As Grant and his troops tightened the noose around the Confederate army, food and other supplies began to get very scarce for Vicksburg's defenders. Early in the siege, Private Young wrote home, "It is fun to hear our boys and the rebels talk on picket. The rebs have to drink sassafras tea and eat corn bread without any salt in it and a small piece of bacon. They don't get any coffee, sugar, hardtack, beans or rice or any of those things Uncle Sam feeds his boys on." Eventually the Vicksburg garrison was forced to eat mule meat. On July 3, Confederate General Pemberton asked for a conference with Grant, and the Confederates surrendered on July 4. As agreed in the terms of surrender, the Confederates marched out of their works and stacked arms.

The Vicksburg Campaign ended the fiercest fighting the 124th Illinois and Company B would endure. During the campaign the regiment suffered 114 casualties in killed and wounded, while Company B lost one killed and three wounded. Before they were mustered out of the army, another seven men of Company B would die, three from wounds and four from disease. At the end of its service, Company B had lost sixteen men, the majority to disease -- but it never lost a soldier to desertion during the entire three years of its service, something that not many Civil War units could claim. Adin Mann would finish the war as a brevet lieutenant colonel and commander of the 124th Illinois.

¹ In 1860, the population of Batavia was 1,621, which was double that of the 1850 census. In the election of 1860, Batavia had cast 157 votes for Stephen Douglas and 251 votes for Abraham Lincoln. Before the end of the war, over three hundred Batavia men would serve in the Union armies.

Johnson Drug Store and Its Predecessors



West Side Pharmacy - Jed McNair and Harry Hunter

The following story has been summarized from a presentation that Bert Johnson, co-president of the Historical Society and the proprietor of Johnson Drug Store until 1979, made to the Society in 1991.

by Bert L. Johnson

For almost one hundred years, a drug store was located at what is now 117 South Batavia Avenue. The first prescription file that we had at Johnson Drug Store was dated 1890; at that time the store, known as the West Side Pharmacy, was owned and operated by Jed McNair.

Prices for prescriptions were quite reasonable in those times, averaging from 50 cents to one dollar. Most were compounded from chemicals, fluid extracts, tinctures, elixirs, and syrups -- no sulfa drugs, penicillin, insulin, or antibiotics. Druggists prepared ointments, eyedrops, powders, suppositories, and cough medicines from syrups and other chemicals.

The year 1909 found a new owner of the drug store, Herman Zinn. He remained there until June, 1914. During his tenure, besides dispensing prescriptions and whatever products there were to sell, the drug store became a "blind pig" -- a pleasant spot to visit on Sunday for spirits. Under the "Blue Laws" in effect in those years, taverns were closed on Sundays. A druggist, however, could buy whiskey (*Spiritus Frumenti*) by the

small barrel from the wholesale drug company, and it was sometimes prescribed by doctors as a kind of appetite stimulant -- in proper doses, of course. One Sunday morning, I have been told, the local head of the ministerial association dropped in to use the telephone; Mr. Zinn, caught off guard, hastily signaled the imbibers to retreat, and there was a mad scramble to the basement, bottles and all.

A Johnson Enters the Picture

Mr. Zinn decided to sell in 1914, and one Bert Napoleon Johnson, my father, purchased the store in June of that year. It became known as the Zinn & Johnson Drug Store.

Bert N., as I shall sometimes refer to him, was born in Batavia at 525 Elm Street on February 5, 1891. Following graduation from West Batavia High School in 1909 (along with Emil Benson, John Gustafson, Bertha Mann, William Sandell, Ed McAlister, Sigrid Johnson, and Mary Bergeson), he entered the College of Pharmacy at Northwestern University and was graduated in 1911.

To serve his required apprenticeship, he went to work for Tom Sanders Drug Store, corner of River and Downer Streets in Aurora. Among those whom he met while working there was Stella Oppfelt, who became Mrs. Bert N. in March of 1913. After that, he worked for one year as a druggist in Pontiac, Illinois, before returning to Batavia and purchasing the Zinn store.

Daily receipts at Zinn & Johnson averaged \$25 to \$35 a day; however, each month showed a small profit after paying the former owner, Mr. Zinn, what was owed him. Some of the expenses were rent, \$25 per month; Chicago Telephone, \$3.85; Western United Gas and Electric, \$.50; and the City of Batavia, \$1.84.

Besides dispensing prescriptions and other products, in order to swell the income Father took on the B.P.S. (Best Paint Sold) agency and became a supplier of paints and related items. A self-bottled product that he had to continue for a while was whiskey for men when they left work down at the U.S. Wind Engine and Pump Co. One time during the bottling process he dropped and broke a bottle; the odor wafted about and, lo and behold, who should arrive to shop but Grace McWayne. As he later recounted, he quickly sprayed the store with perfume to cover the other odor. And, as soon as possible, he managed to wean customers off these bottled goods and discontinued the sales -- at least for the time being.

Bert N. ventured into several other pursuits at the store to make a dollar. For one, he rented space to a Ben Randolph, who had a watch repair service located in the southeast corner of the store. He also was an agent for R.C.A. Victrolas ("His Master's Voice") and Pioneer radios with the C, B, and A batteries, ear phones and all.

In 1923, Glen Oppfelt, my mother's brother, joined with Father in a partnership. They opened a drug store on East Wilson, next door to the Jules Morris (later the Phipps) Department Store. Both stores were then called Johnson and Oppfelt. The two existed until 1939 when William Rachielles, formerly an employee of my father's, purchased the east side store. It became Rachielles Drug Store and the west side store became Bert N. Johnson Rexall Store.

Bert N. had great rapport with his customers, fun times, and he was caring and generous. He spoke Swedish quite well, and in this way could communicate with the people who were arriving from Sweden, as well as the old-timers, who loved to converse in their mother tongue. Father was a multi-talented man, motorcycle

Continued on p.8

WHAT'S DOING AT THE MUSEUM?

by Carla Hill, Director

Since the museum re-opened in March and with the beginning of warm weather, we have started to see a marked increase in the museum attendance. May and June were busy months with many of the third grade classes coming to the museum as part of that Batavia History project.

Chris Winter and I have just completed installing an exhibit titled "Batavia Red, White and Blue," which includes part of the museum's beautiful poster collection, information on Bernard Cigrand and Flag Day, and artifacts from World War I, World War II and Viet Nam.

This summer the caboose will be repaired and re-painted. Many of the boards on the west side of the caboose are very damaged and need to be replaced and the paint which is very faded needs to be redone. We will be doing some additional landscaping as the year progresses and a few minor repairs on the building. We have installed a railing at the rear of the museum on the steps leading to the Coffin Bank and we have installed an open hours sign on the front of the Depot Museum.

The Summer Passport program has started, and we are beginning to see a lot of children and their families from various towns throughout Kane, DuPage, Cook and other nearby counties. This is always a very popular program.

Chris and I are busy making plans for the Ruble display of railroad artifacts which will be located in the front portion of the main room at the museum. We hope that the work can be started when we close for the winter in November.

We have many other projects and special events that are being planned as a result of the plans that are being developed by the Society's long-range planning committee. Keep an eye out for more information as dates are firmed up and plans are made. We will also be looking for people to help with many of the special events. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum or for any of our special events, please contact me at 879-5235 or Kathy Fairbairn at 406-9041.

We are looking forward to a wonderful and busy summer. Take time to drop in at the museum and see what is new!

Membership and Other Matters

Since the last issue, Steve and Anita Nelson of Batavia have joined the Society as Life Members. Other new members (from Batavia unless otherwise noted) include Erik Anderson (junior member), Todd Anderson (junior member), Helen Babb, John and Dorothy Carlson, John and Karol Clark, Harold and Marj Holbrook, Barb Jeske, Ellen Lacher (junior member), Jacob Lacher (junior member), Jason W. LeKander, Carol L. Leppert, Matt and Tom Linhart, Robert Ratliff family, Tim Schmitz, Dick Shewalter (St. Charles), Eleanor Smith (St. Charles), Julia Spalding (junior member), Betty Stephano, Robert Surdyski family, Connie Sutphin (Aurora), Nicole Sutphin (junior member, Aurora), Robert Warfel (Riverside, California), Tony and Chris Winter family, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Zollner. We welcome these members and look forward to their participation in the affairs of the Society.

We regret to report the deaths of members Mary L. Matteson, Ida Gertrude Hoag, Marvin H. Nelson, and Louise Glos and extend our sympathy to their families and friends.

Besides the gift from the estate of Mary Matteson (see page 9) the Society received gifts from Dr. Brendan Clifford and Mr. and Mrs. George Fairbairn (Reliance Gear Corp.) and a memorial gift from Sara M. Dworak, niece of Mary Matteson.

The Society Plans for Its Future

At the April meeting, the board directed the president to appoint a long-range planning committee, charged with making recommendations regarding the Society's future operations, the space and other facilities required to carry out those recommendations, and the financial resources available or needed to implement the recommendations. The committee is to report its findings to the board by August 31, 1998.

President Johnson appointed Bill Hall (chairman), Dick Benson, Bob Brown, Carla Hill, and Marilyn Robinson to serve on the committee, with Treasurer Jerry Harris to serve as an advisor. Members are urged to contact any of the committee members with their suggestions.

County Records Project Finished -- at Last!

by Marilyn Robinson

Where can one find lost records of the East Side Cemetery in Batavia? The home of the *Batavia Tribune* in 1904? In records distributed to Kane County Historical Societies by the Kane County Circuit Court.

In 1993, Jan Carlson, Circuit Court Clerk, found his office smothered under a mountain of old papers. After microfilming the records he offered the originals to county historical and genealogical societies.

The 20,000 probate files were contained in 1,600 boxes. Each file had to be sorted to determine to which township society the file should go. Each society now has to keep, index, and sign for any files it selects. If later a society decides it does not want a file or portion of a file, it must be returned to the Circuit Clerk's office for disposal.

The sorting began in May, 1993. A group of volunteers from the societies met every Thursday in the

Campana Building in Batavia. After the probate records were finished, the clerk's office gave the volunteers court records that numbered even more than the 1,600 boxes of probate ones. The volunteers finished this chore in May 1998, just five years after they began.

I brought back Batavia's records, boxed them and completed an index of 10,847 names. The records are on the third floor of the Depot Museum and contain a mountain of information in 164 boxes. The records are now available for research. Persons doing family or historical research who wish to see them may make an appointment with curator Carla Hill.

Society members who worked on this project included Evelyn Noreen, Kathy Fairbairn, Bill Hall, Bill Wood, Patty Will, Elliott Lundberg, Marian Heiser, Sandy Chalupa, and Marilyn Robinson.

More Swedish Nicknames

In earlier issues, most recently last January's, we began listing the Swedish nicknames in Batavia that Edna Oleson had started, with help from her brother, Roland Peterson, and that Elliott Lundberg and Arnold O. Johnson completed in 1989. The list continues below:

NAME	NICKNAME	OTHER COMMENTS
Mary Benson	Fayat (Fäat)	Elm St., collected garbage scraps
Nels Benson	Galvare Nels	Tanner
Peter Benson	Farmer Pete	First St.
Benson	Snickare Benson	Carpenter
Raymond Benson	Pooch	Son of Grasshopper John Benson
Evar Benson	Big Cooka	Son of Grasshopper John Benson
Arnold Benson	Little Cooka	Son of Grasshopper John Benson
Benson	Slaktaren	Brother of Claus Benson
Veda Benson	Hjalmar's lunch	Hjalmar Benson's wife
John Benson	Grasshopper	
Gunnar Bergman	Skoming (Skåning?)	
Carl M. Carlson	Fårakaren (Får akaren)	Houston St. - father in law of Walter R. Johnson
Gustav Carlson	Double Gust	Did work of two men
Gustav Carlson	Selma's Gust	
Gustav Carlson	Stora Gust	
	Locker Gust	Had food locker

(To be continued)

Our Biographical File Needs Your Help

The Society is preparing a biographical file. This file is based on notes made by John Gustafson in 1960, with many facts and families added by Marilyn Robinson's research -- but this is only a beginning. We want to include a brief family history of all members, and as many other Batavians as possible, for use by future researchers.

The time to record history is now, when it is happening. You will be a part of that history some day, so let's be sure

the information is available to those who follow.

A form for you to use as a guide is included as an insert in this newsletter. You may give as many generations as you wish -- the more the better. If you have a generational chart already prepared, a copy would be a good addition to this file.

Please work on it right now, while the request is fresh in your mind.

Summer Events Slated for Junior Members

The Society has planned three activities this summer for its junior members - those entering third grade in the fall up to those entering ninth grade who have paid \$1 dues or whose parents have bought family memberships.

On June 23, junior members at the Depot Museum learned how artifacts are preserved. This gave them an opportunity to visit the third floor -- an area that visitors are normally barred from with a "No Admittance" sign at the foot of the steps. There they saw where documents used for historic research and items for which display space is not available are stored. This is also where donated items are catalogued and prepared for preservation.

In July, junior members will serve as docent for a day, working with an adult volunteer, and in August, they will help the curator, Carla Hill, prepare a museum display on medicine and early medical practices in Batavia.

Anyone wishing to become a junior member of the Society or desiring more information about the youth program should call Carla at 879-5235.



Irene Wood in 1892 event in which each store had a girl dressed to represent it.

- - A Young Child's Memory of the Harvest of Grain - -

Our readers always look forward to something new from Helen Anderson. With her warm, personal stories about growing up on the Bartelt family farm in Batavia township, she is one of our most popular contributors. The picture below is of Helen as a young child.

by Helen Bartelt Anderson

As the harvest neared, Papa walked to the fields to check on the ripeness of the wheat and oats. Wheat was always harvested first. Being very hardy, the seeds were planted in the fall. I always felt big if Papa asked me to walk with him.

There was a lot of preparation before threshing began. The large bins where the grain was to be stored had to be cleaned, horses' harnesses had to be in good repair, and the grainbinder had to be cleaned, greased and oiled. Finally, the day arrived when Papa hitched up his three horses to the binder and started cutting the wheat. Other men picked up the bundles from the binder and set them into shocks -- nine bundles set up straight with one spread out to cover the top. This prevented the rain from soaking them and also kept the grains of wheat from shelling out.

My brother, Roger, and I watched and waited until one evening the big steam engine, with a loud blast of its whistle, rolled into our yard. There were several different threshing "rings" around. The one Papa belonged to consisted of four neighbors. They took turns in using the engine and separator, which were jointly owned. I believe Wilbur Hawks was engineer, and Papa kept the big separator running. It was fun and exciting to watch the farmers come on their hayracks, pulled by strong, peppy horses -- the horses and men equally excited and happy to be working towards the end of the harvest.

Threshing days started early. At about 6:00 a.m. the engine man blew two blasts, which told the neighbors that all systems were "Go." I believe all the farmers in the ring were dairy farmers, which meant that before they started the threshing, the cows had to be milked. By the time the whistle blew, Papa had finished with milking, the milk cans were all in the cooling tank, Mama was putting her pies in the oven, Roger was already up, and I was rubbing my sleepy eyes. I smelled the coffee, bacon, eggs and fried potatoes that Mama served to the engine man, Papa, Uncle Charlie, Roger and me, as well as Fred



McCullough, a slightly retarded man who lived with us and did chores for breakfast.

By the end of breakfast, the pies had been baked, dishes put to soak, and Mama was off to town to deliver the eight big cans of milk to the dairy and pick up the big roast for the threshers' dinner. Mama would hurry home, put the roast in the oven and more wood on the fire, and get on with dinner preparations - all of this before 8:00 a.m.! I am sure Roger and I were kept busy doing errands. And the next day would be a repeat -- also the day after that.

I remember watching the wagon loads of bundles come from the field. Bundle after bundle was fed into the threshing machine, where the grain was separated from the straw. By

means of a long spout, the wheat went into a box wagon. The shiny, yellow straw was blown onto a mountain-sized stack in the yard. Roger and I wanted so much to jump into that soft straw stack, but we had to follow Papa's rules. We had to stay away from the engine and separator and watch for the men driving the horses on the hayracks, not play there or in the grain bin in the barn.

Giving the men a good, nourishing meal was very important to Mama and Papa. The threshers worked very hard and really needed good food. As soon as the meal was ready, Mama sent us to tell Papa, and he would call to the men, "Dinner's ready!" Papa had put up a bench in the yard with soap, water, towels, and even a mirror and comb fastened to a tree so they could comb their hair. It must have been a treat to them as they walked into the dining room. Mama always used her big white tablecloth and water glasses with ice-cold water from our deep well. The food was passed, and each man ate his fill. Mama served the same food each day, but there was no complaint because she was a good Pennsylvania Dutch cook. Roast beef was the most popular except fish on Fridays because most of our neighbors were Roman Catholics.

The dining room table, when stretched out, could seat fifteen or sixteen men. If there were more, they had to wait. Mama was always pleased when every single man said thank you as he left. The men sat on the ground to rest for about half an hour and were ready to go again. It was a time for neighbors who seldom got together socially to exchange ideas, brag about achievements, and tell many stories.

Farmers knew all about cooperation and teamwork. Many strong hands and strong backs were needed to complete the harvest.



Grain Harvest Crew
(Identifications lost)

Johnson Drug Store Continued from p. 4

rider, tap dancer, poet, great fisherman, crack shot, pheasant hunter, and baseball player with the likes of Hugh Mair, Emil Benson and others.

Other Services Were Offered

During the 1930s the two best business days were the Fourth of July and Christmas. For the Fourth the store sold all kinds of fireworks, cap guns, and paper balloons -- the ones with the flammable seltzer that, when lighted, filled the balloons with hot air. As they floated away, we hoped they would never land on someone's house or haystack. Then on Christmas we had a Rexall Doll contest: after you had registered your daughter or sister, for every cent purchased, she received a vote. The top ten vote getters received a doll Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve was spent counting votes until 10 p.m. and then notifying the winners. Hazel Patzer Hawse recently recalled winning a doll in the contest -- a very exciting time.

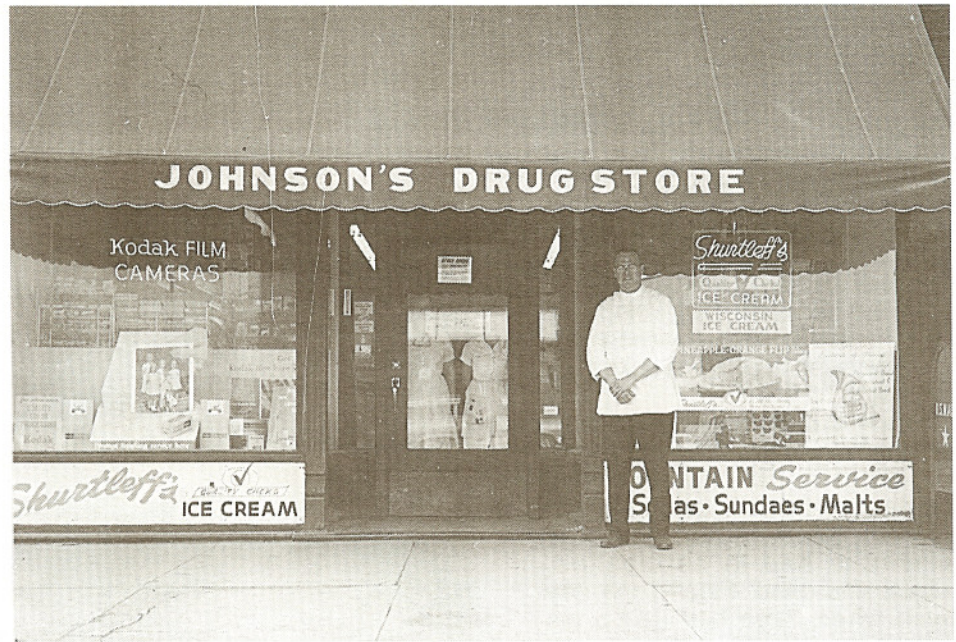
Another service offered at the drug store was a postal substation, beginning in 1909. The substation sold stamps, made out money orders, registered mail, and mailed packages -- a busy place at Christmas.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, the store operated a Postal Telegraph Service, similar to Western Union. Messages came through a teletype machine in tape form that was transferred to a message blank. The message was either phoned or delivered, whichever the customer preferred. It proved worthwhile for a few years -- then the company failed.

From 1922 to 1933, Spiritus Frumenti returned. If one was in dire need of such help, the doctor would give a prescription for a pint of 16-year bonded Four Roses whiskey. One prescription a month was the limit. According to an oft-told story, when this service came into being, many customers were paying early visits to the doctor before he had the prescription blanks. The post office employees passed the word when the blank prescriptions arrived. With the repeal of prohibition in 1933, this service was discontinued.

Another Johnson Joins the Business

In 1936 I headed for college at the University of Illinois and was eventually graduated from pharmacy school in Chicago in 1941. Later that year I



Bert L. Johnson

became a registered pharmacist. Shortly after that I entered the service of the United States Navy, returning in December, 1946.

Unfortunately Bert N. died of a heart attack January 11, 1954. That very evening he had resigned his position as head of Batavia Township Republican Party, an organization he had been active in as far back as 1923. At this point my mother became my non-working partner and continued so until about 1960. Her sight failed then, confining her to home most of the time. She lived well cared for the remainder of her 90 plus years.

In line with the new thinking about space usage, we discontinued the ice cream fountain in 1955. That idea proved not to be the best so, when I expanded our facilities to the building to the north in 1961, we restored the fountain and put in a sit-down counter, serving coffee and rolls along with the usual ice cream delights.

We had J. Adolph Swanson cut an 8-foot hole in the common wall into the shop next door and, upon completion, added extensively to our Hallmark line, candles, stationery, school supplies and toys. Even after all the expansion in 1946, 1955, 1961, we had only about 2,700 square feet of space -- small in comparison to today's drug stores. By the way, we had first introduced Hallmark cards in 1941 with a two-rack display. One could buy a card for 10 cents then --

a 25-cent card was considered the best.

To many protests, the ice cream fountain was finally removed -- for good -- in 1967. It was difficult for me to manage, but I sometimes reflect that I should have maintained it as a port of call for kids, shoppers, and coffee drinkers -- a neighborly stop. We did, however, maintain a back room coffee pot ready for certain locals, particularly on Sunday mornings when many world problems were solved under the tutelage of none other than our own Phil Elfstrom.

The Heart of the Business -- Our Employees

In the early 1920s Bill Rachiell and Roland Koepky, both of Batavia, served as pharmacists. During World War II, Bert N. worked alone. After his death, I had the good services of pharmacists Raymond Kramer in 1955 and Ralph Conley for five years before he left to buy his own drug store in West Chicago. Then Richard C. Frick worked for me for five years before joining the staff at Delnor Hospital. Others, part-timers, included Tom Clark, Russell Leugert, Donald Larson, and my son, Richard.

The people who represented the drug store up front were most important. Elsie Henningson Kresser, who began in 1928 and left in 1949, was the whole drug store herself. If Elsie

Continued on p. 9

THE SCALE



Bill Wood with Scale

by Elliott Lundberg and William Wood

The Batavia National Bank opened for business in 1909 at the southwest corner of Wilson Street and River Street. In 1920 the bank bought the

building they were located in and also the adjoining store and remodeled the two buildings into the one building which still stands there today.

Mr. Herbert T. Windsor was President of the bank at that time, and after the remodeling was completed and the bank opened in the new building in 1921 or 1922 he bought a large Toledo scale and installed it in the lobby.

The scale stands 6 feet 6 inches in height and the face measures 24 inches in diameter, registering weight up to 300 pounds. The weighing platform is large, often holding two or three children as they added or subtracted their individual weights. A sign on the scale states "Weigh with our compliments."

It was a very popular item and countless customers stepped on it to weigh themselves - free. When the bank was remodeled in 1962 the scale was moved back into the bookkeeping department, and people who asked about it were sent back to bookkeeping to be weighed. Years later the bank bought the adjoining building to

the west, the old Maroma Restaurant, and the lobby of the bank was again remodeled to include the additional building.

A grand opening ceremony was held in 1980 and the old Toledo scale was again placed in its former position on the west wall of the main lobby. On the night of the grand opening two of Batavia's largest men made a friendly wager on who was the largest. Although neither Philip Elfstrom nor George Kramer reached the 300 pound level, they both came close.

When the bank ceased operating at 18 E. Wilson Street at the end of 1992 the Toledo scale was moved up to the lobby of the First Chicago Bank branch on South Batavia Avenue where it still provides free weight to any and all who come in, as it has for almost eighty years.

Note: Gladys Noren worked at the Batavia National Bank from 1936 to 1974. She remembers that Mr. Windsor said that the scale had been on board a ship; she didn't know whether he meant in being transported or in being used aboard the ship.

Johnson Drug Store Continued from p. 8

had not been there during those trying times of depression and war, there would not have been any drug store. On occasion she would walk to work from Second Street in St. Charles!

During the war, we had some notable high school employees -- Allan Benson, Marilyn Lundeen Phelps, Molly Olesen Hubbard, and Ethel Johnson (Mrs. Paul Bergeson). One of my best achievements was having these four ladies who worked for me for 25 years. And there were Dorothy Dahling, Wilma Liden, Lorraine (Mrs. Ken) Olson, and Helen (formerly Mrs. Harold) Anderson. My three children, Richard, Marjorie, and Mary, worked for me during their high school years, sometimes joined by my wife, Anne, who filled in on occasion and was called the "new girl."

And I must not forget the doctors who sent us prescriptions over the years -- Drs. Carpenter and Scott of years ago, Bothwell, Fitts, O.W. Hubbard, Annie Spencer, John Charles West, Theodore Henning

Mostrom, Oliver B. Simon, Arthur L. Morley, LeRoy L. Linville, Benjamin Franklin Shirer, Allison Gail Baxter, Walter Kingsley Grigg, James Habegger, John O'Dwyer, and Witold Sloniewicz.

I Decide to "Cease and Desist"

In 1979, thoughts of retiring were entering my mind, and I let my drug wholesaler know that I was willing to sell. This brought about the purchase of my business by Robert Fondriest, a fine young man and an excellent pharmacist. In 1989, he moved the store to the Batavia Shopping Plaza - just a few months short of 100 years at the same location.

Early this year, Bob decided to close the business. Thus ended what had operated continuously for at least 108 years as the West Side Pharmacy, Zinn & Johnson, Bert N. Johnson Rexall Drugs, Johnson and Oppfelt, Johnson's Rexall Drug Store, and Johnson's Drug Store.

Mary Matteson Bequest to the Society

The Society recently received a \$10,000 charitable contribution from the estate of the late Mary Louise Marcuson Matteson, who was a Life Member and had served as a museum volunteer. In addition her niece, Sally Martin Dworak of El Paso, Texas, sent a memorial gift --

For Batavia Depot Museum
in loving memory
of my dear aunt
Mary Louise Marcuson Matteson
1908-1998
with fond memories of Batavia
and your fine museum

The Society is grateful for both gifts and will use the money for a purpose to be designated in memory of Mary Matteson.

Batavia Historical Society Membership 1998

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom | \$5.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Life (family) | \$125.00 |
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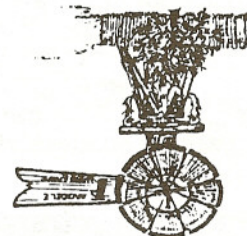
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Editor: William D. Hall
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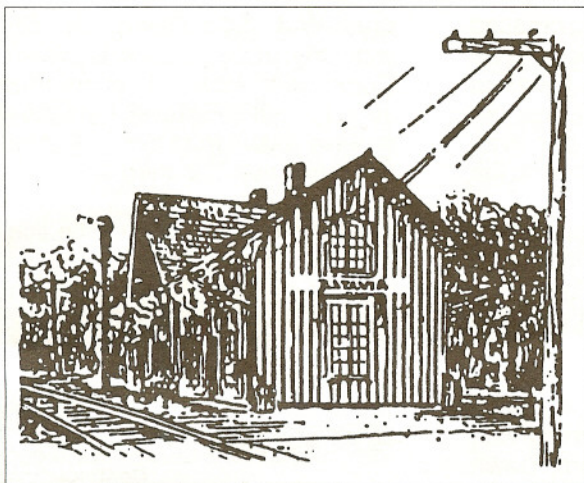
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The Batavia Historian

Batavia Historical Society

*P.O. Box 14
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Vol. 39 No. 4

September, 1998

The Batavia and Eastern Railway Company and Successors

by Steven W. Lusted, Jr.

Do you remember the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railway, referred to by some as the "Third Rail"? Today, with one small exception, the Batavia branch of the railroad is a bicycle path that many of us have ridden without knowing, or reflecting on, its history. Steve Lusted had wanted to tell our readers about it and gave us the following story only three days before his death from a heart attack on August 3, 1998. We are especially glad to publish this history and hope that it will serve as a memorial for his family and many friends.

The Batavia & Eastern Railway Company was incorporated February 21, 1901, to obtain right of way and franchises and to construct a rail line between Batavia and the Eola Junction on the Aurora Branch of the Aurora, Wheaton & Chicago Railway, a subsidiary of the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railway. This line was to serve the huge CA&E powerhouse and provide a right of way to erect electric transmission lines to service the CA&E substations. The Batavia & Eastern lasted only until March, 1902, when it was merged into the AW&C.

Freight service never became significant on the branch, being limited to a few carloads a year that were unloaded on a team track close to the Batavia station. Although plans to im-

prove freight service by running a track either across the Fox River to the south end of the Island or north on River Street and then across to the Island were formulated in early 1917, nothing came of them. The real impact of the line, which lives in the memories of many older residents of the area, lay in its passenger service.

After my family moved to Batavia in September of 1948 while I was a teenager, I would spend time around the CA&E Batavia station, located on the east side of the Fox River and the south side of Wilson Street. The station at that time consisted of a cov-

ered stairway down from Wilson Street to the platform level and a small area at the north end of the platform that had a roof. The ticket office was located on the street level in the jewelry store owned by Eddie Hunt, and Jack and Oma Capocasa had a restaurant at the platform level.

The single car shuttled back and forth between Eola Junction, called Batavia Junction after 1912, and Batavia, from the first trip in the morning to the last at night, when the car would run back to the shop in Wheaton. My first recollection was of the kindly conductor, Joseph Schramer, who would take time to talk



At Wilson Street Station

The Batavia and Eastern Railway Company and Successors Continued from p. 1

to a kid during the layover, while also feeding the ducks that abounded along the river bank. A resident of Batavia, Mr. Schramer always wore his blue uniform coat and hat, no matter how hot the weather was, and on his coat lapel there was usually a red rose. At that time, he was probably one of the more senior conductors and had bid this easy run where there was not too much work. Strangely enough, I can't recall who the motorman was.

The crews would spend time in Batavia standing out on the platform in good weather, looking at the river and noting the time on their official railroad pocket watches. Just prior to the scheduled departure time, the motorman would board the front of the car and close the door. The conductor would check up the stairs to Wilson Street and then board the car, shut the door, and reach up, giving the bell rope two pulls. Upon hearing the two bells, the motorman would release the brakes and notch up the controller, and away the car would go.

The trip toward Batavia Junction was south, paralleling the river, with the first stop at the powerhouse/ Glenwood Park. This stop at one time had a platform for faster loading and unloading the crowds going to and from Glenwood Park; the cars from the elevated railroad in Chicago could be used for the large picnics. Since the powerhouse had closed in the late 1920s and Glenwood Park in 1933 or 1934, the wood platform had been removed, and a cinder ground-level platform replaced it. The shelter was lowered to ground level. Supposedly this stop was kept active because there was at least one commuter who lived on the west side of the river in

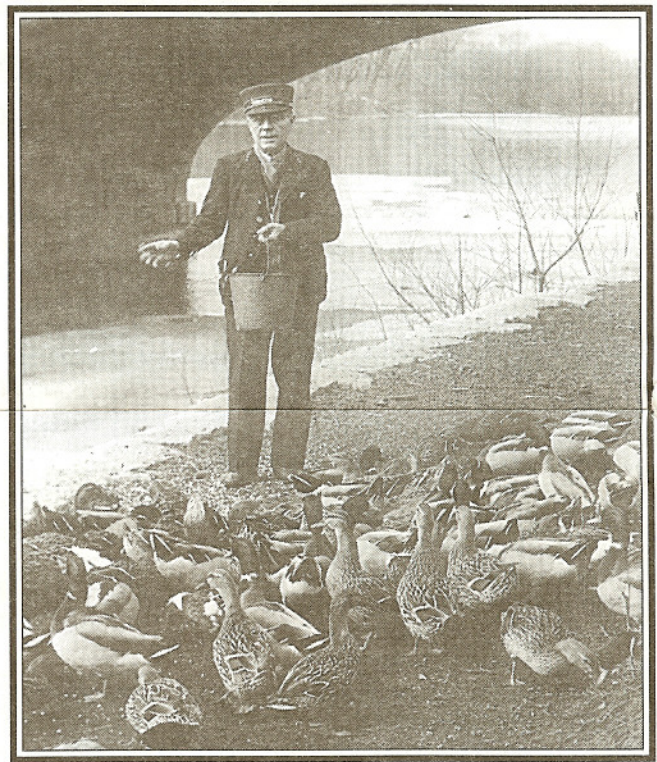
the Colonial Village area and crossed the river on the foot bridge located atop the powerhouse dam. It was at this point that the trolley pole was put up, and power for the car was changed to an overhead wire from the third rail.

It appears that this change had resulted from a serious accident. As reported in the *Batavia Herald* of May 19, 1933, "Florence Pitz, 9 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Pitz, 36 N. Prairie Street, is winning her fight for life . . . Florence had been picking flowers along the third rail with her sister, Betty, and a chum, Dawn Stadler, when she stumbled and fell onto the high rail . . . Freeman Young of Aurora, who was fishing nearby, was attracted by her screams and the cries of the other two children and ran to her aid, prying her unconscious form from the rail. She was rushed across River Street to the Lynse home. Mrs. Lynse, her two daughters and Charles Santini of Aurora, a male nurse at Copley Hospital, just drove up. Mr. Santini applied artificial respiration while Mrs. Lynse phoned in vain for a doctor. Finally Dr. O.B. Simon, of Batavia, returning from the golf course, was flagged down by State Patrol-

man W.J. Spaulding. Dr. Simon promptly rushed the little girl to the Community Hospital for treatment." John F. Petit of Batavia, then the state representative from this district led the drive to have the third rail removed within the town.

After the powerhouse, the line ran through Glenwood Park and turned east. In making this turn, the branch passed under Illinois Route 25 and the Burlington Railroad. At this point there was a steady rise in the grade of about 120 feet to Wagner Road, a distance of about one and one-third miles. This

Continued on p. 3



Conductor Joseph Schramer

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, October 4 (rain date October 11) - Annual Cemetery Walk sponsored by Heritage Committee of Access and the Historical Society. This year's walk will be in the West Side Cemetery. Tours begin at 1 p.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Watch for more information in the newspapers.

Friday, October 16 (museum volunteers only) - Museum volunteers will be treated to a motor coach tour of Graceland Cemetery in Chicago. Lunch will be at a Swedish restaurant.

Sunday, November 8 - Motorcoach tour of old Batavia. Stops will be made in historic areas. Tours will begin at 1 p.m., and the last one will end about 4 p.m. Watch for more details. Reservations will be needed. Public will be invited.

Sunday, December 6 - Annual meeting and potluck at Bethany Lutheran Church.
Wednesday, December 16 - Christmas lunch for volunteers. Watch for details from Carla Hill.

The Batavia Historian, recipient of the Illinois State Historical Society's 1997 Award for Superior Achievement, is published quarterly by the Batavia Historical Society. The editor, Bill Hill, will welcome any suggestions or material -- 630-879-2033.

The Depot Museum, a cooperative effort of the Society and the Batavia Park District, is open from 2 to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from March through November. The director, Carla Hill, can be reached at 630-879-5235.

The Batavia and Eastern Railway Company and Successors Continued from p. 2

grade is quite noticeable to anyone walking this part of today's bicycle path.

The stops along this grade were Hart Road, Raddant Road (in the early years), Wagner Road, State (now Butterfield) Road, Bilter Road, and the junction. Each of the stops had a shelter, semaphore stop signal, and cinder platform. State Road had a diamond-shaped concrete pier set in the center of the highway with a wig-wag signal and bell; later this was changed to wig-wags on the side of the road and a set of gates. The shelter was located on the south side of the highway where there were a half dozen or so houses. All these stops were out in the country, but the CA&E would not have kept them unless there was some passenger traffic.

Each of the stops had a semaphore stop signal -- a metal pole with a three-foot arm near the top. Attached to this arm was a chain that could be pulled to raise the arm to the horizontal position, signaling the motorman to stop. Upon seeing the signal, the motorman would give two short toots on the whistle, and the passenger would unhook the chain to lower the arm. Occasionally someone would forget to raise the signal, and the car would go by the shelter, then have to back up. This usually brought on a lesson from the conductor on the proper use of the semaphore.

Arriving at Batavia Junction, just west of Eola Road and south of today's I-88, the shuttle car kept on the branch, stopping where the platform went across to the Aurora branch platform. The passengers going east or west would usually find the car(s) from Aurora arriving at this time, so they did not have to use the small room in bad weather to wait for their connection.

An elevated platform was erected there in 1926, allowing passengers to cross without stepping down and then up. The Aurora branch side had a long enough platform to provide for a three-car train. Initially there was no shelter as the passengers waited in the Batavia car for the arrival of an Aurora branch car, but in 1930 a canopy over the platform was added.

During the summer, the crews waiting for the next train cared for a vegetable garden at the junction. They

used a milk can to haul water from Batavia to the garden.

The car(s) from Chicago bound for Aurora would glide to a stop at the junction. The Batavia passengers, few except at rush hour, would walk across the platform and board the Batavia car. Sometimes a bundle of Chicago newspapers destined for the Batavia News Agency would be transferred to the head-end vestibule.

On the trip back to Batavia, the first stop might be State Road. Here the third rail ended at the state highway right of way on each side, and there was a stretch of overhead wire across a road. If the train had to stop to let a passenger off, the trolley pole then had to be used to get across the highway.

From Hart Road to the Fox River was the best part of the trip. The down grade increased, and the trees grew almost to the tracks, with some outcropping of limestone near the Burlington overpass. The whole branch was notorious for its rocking and rolling, but in this area a car seemed to go as far side to side as it did forward. After the curve near the Burlington and Route 25 bridges came the shelter and cinder platform of the powerhouse; here the third rail ended and an overhead line with trolleys, supplied the power.

The track was straight from the powerhouse into the Batavia terminal. If, as was usually the case, no passengers were getting off at the powerhouse stop, the motorman would shut off the controller and coast into the terminal. This was not done on cars that had leaking brake systems. The bumper post at the Batavia terminal was hit more than once -- the reason, I was told, wet or icy rails.¹

Harold Poss of Aurora told me that in the 1939-1943 period he rode the CA&E from his farm home on Bilter Road to Batavia to attend high school. The monthly ticket was \$2.82, which was paid for by the State of Illinois since he lived outside any established school district. Other students, he remembered, boarded at Butterfield Road, Wagner Road, and Hart Road.

A timetable for June, 1945, lists 24 round trips between Batavia and Chicago on weekdays, 26 on Saturdays, and 18 on Sundays and holidays. One

of the trips, nicknamed the "Cannonball," left at 7:56 a.m. and arrived in Chicago at Wells Street terminal at 8:55. The westbound Cannonball left Chicago at 4:55 p.m. and arrived in Batavia at 5:55. One hour to and from the Loop with no traffic problems!

In the summer of 1953 the Illinois Commerce Commission gave the CA&E permission to use motor coach service during non-rush hours, weekends and holidays on the Batavia branch. Four years later, on July 3, shortly after noon, a judge allowed the CA&E to abandon passenger service. Fearful of a court order to continue service, the CA&E discontinued all passenger service immediately. Many commuters were stranded in Chicago or other stations. A crew had to be sent by auto from Wheaton to bring back the car sitting in the Batavia station awaiting the rush hour trips. Thus ended 55 years of service to Batavia.

Today, with one small exception around I-88, the right of way is a bicycle path.

1. Ed. note. In *Batavia Revisited*, Thomas A. Mair relates that on one occasion "... 52 tons (of railroad cars) made themselves recognized. At about 4:30 in the morning of May 27, 1911, one of the ... freight cars was headed for Batavia from Eola Junction, when the brakes failed just west of the Wagner Road crossing. The road bed being all down grade from there into Batavia, the result was fore-ordained. After the motorman burned out the fuses by trying to reverse the motors, it was all down hill in more than one sense. The car picked up speed, hung to the rails through the curve just past Route 25, and made it to the bumper at the Batavia station with momentum to spare. The bumper made some impression, but not nearly enough; the car continued on through it, through the platform and finally stopped partially embedded in the stone and brick wall of the transfer station and coffee shop. With no passengers on board and none waiting at that hour of the day, no one was hurt, but the car was severely bent and so was the building." For further information on the CA&E and a number of interesting anecdotes, read Chapters XII-XIV of Mair's book (available for sale at the Depot Museum).

The Search for Cpl. Isaac S. Hedges

by William J. Wood

Dr. Brendan Clifford of Encinitas, California, recently visited here to acquaint himself with the Batavia of the Civil War era. He is planning to publish a book based on the Civil War diary of Captain John S. Hedges of Batavia, who served in Company I of the 42nd Illinois Infantry. Through his intensive reading and interpretation of the diary, the many related governmental and civil documents he had collected, and his correspondence

with Carla Hill and me, he felt at home in that era. He had come to feel that he really knew Captain Hedges and the many persons he wrote of in his diary, all with old Batavia names. His first stop in Batavia was at the West Side Cemetery where, in his own words, "I visited with the Wolcotts, Derbys, Newtons — and many others whose names are so familiar to me." He also met and visited with two very much alive

young men, Jason LeKander, sexton of the West Side Cemetery, and his summer helper, Kyle Hohmann. Both became interested in Dr. Clifford's work and eventually solved a mystery for him and the Batavia Historical Society.

Captain Hedges' diary disclosed that a younger brother, Isaac S. Hedges, was also a participant in the war, serving in Company B of the 124th Illinois Infantry. Isaac died August 15, 1863, at Batavia while on sick furlough from an Army hospital in St. Louis. A letter written by his mother, Martha, tells a heartbreaking story: "In July of 1863 after the surrender of Vicksburg Isaac was sent up river to Lawson Hospital with others at St. Louis. When we heard how low he was, I went to him as his father could not . . . He commenced to gain and I remained with him a few days and helped to care for him . . . They gave

him a furlough and we came home to Batavia, Illinois. We arrived in Batavia at 11 o'clock and at sunset he ceased to breathe."

The eulogy of his commanding officer, Capt. Adin Mann, tells us that "... he came home emaciated with disease on the 15th of August, 1863, to breathe out his last farewell to earth on the eve of the same day, surrounded by his sorrowing parents, brother and sisters. His age was 22 years and 10 months. He is gone:

hush mourners, for he sleeps." There was no record of place of burial. A visit to the Congregational Church in Batavia and the graveyard at the church on Eola Road yielded no information. Dr. Clifford returned to California with the hope that we here in Batavia might be able to solve the mystery.

In Lot 11 in the old northeast section of the cemetery, an old stone, lying flush with the grass, reads: "Prudence, Wife of

Capt. Isaac Hedges, died Mar. 1, 1854, Aged 84 Years." No other stones are on the lot. Considering the similarity of the names and year of Prudence's birth, we thought it possible that she could be Cpl. Isaac's grandmother and the wife of a Revolutionary War soldier. After a group discussion in which all agreed with this assumption, Jason LeKander and Kyle Hohmann went into action. Probing the area near Prudence's stone, they began hitting multiple pieces of stone in close proximity to one another. Excavating the top layer of soil they found a broken headstone and began fitting the many pieces together. The top part of the stone is still missing except for the date, 1863. Next line down begins: "Soldier, Rest! Thy warfare o'er, Sleep the sleep that knows not breaking; Dream of battlefields no more, Days of danger, nights of waking. Aged 22 yrs. 10 mo. 7

days." A few days later a government document listing all veterans buried in the West Side Cemetery was found, confirming that Cpl. Isaac S. Hedges, Army, Co. B, 124th Ill. Inf., died August 15, 1863, and was buried in Lot 11 with a personal headstone. Cpl. Isaac's final resting place is no longer unknown. Jason and Kyle also uncovered the foundation stone for Prudence's headstone.

The pieces of Isaac's headstone will be bonded together -- in time, we hope, for the October 4, 1998, Batavia Cemetery Walk. In Marilyn Robinson's script, Isaac will join Charles Pindar and Durkee Whipple, two other Civil War veterans who lie nearby, in telling their stories. All three died in their twenties.

Membership and Other Matters

Since the last issue, George and Kathryn Fairbairn, long-time members, have become Life Members, as has Trevor Steinbach -- all of Batavia. Other new members (all from Batavia unless otherwise indicated) include Mrs. Doris Farmiloe (Madison, Wisconsin), Don and Judy Frigolett, Jack B. Hassler (Hermosa Beach, California), Judi Lampert (Asheville, North Carolina), Elroy and Patricia Meyer, Dave and Joan Olson, Kathleen Rimap, Marla Scheinman (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania), Nick Thery (Junior Member), Dorothy Willey, and Ben Youngdahl (Junior Member).

We regret to report the deaths of members Steve W. Lusted and Donald H. Schielke and extend our sympathy to their families and friends. Steve Lusted gave us the lead story in this issue just three days before his unexpected death. Don Schielke is the subject of "Batavians I Have Known" in this issue.

The Furnas Foundation, a long-time supporter of the Society, recently gave us \$500. The Society also received a memorial gift for Mary Matteson from her sister, Betty Martin, and memorial gifts for Don Schielke from Jody and Jeff Haltenhof, Jim and Dottie Hanson, Catherine Hodge, Harold and Marj Holbrook, Stanley J. Pillatsch, Frank Saupp Tree Service, Harvey and Rosemary Schielke, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schonback, John & Dorothy Stolarz, and Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wyllie.



Jason LeKander and Kyle Hohman

Grand Army of the Republic - Post #48

Batavia Men Who Helped Preserve the Union

by Marilyn Robinson

The Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans of the Civil War, was founded in Springfield, Illinois, in 1866, in "defense of the late soldiery of the United States, morally, socially, and politically." At its peak in 1890, the GAR had over 400,000 members nation-wide and was a significant political force for many years.

Three companies of men were recruited from Batavia during the War between the States in 1861-65. Names of 299 men are on the Newton Soldiers' Monument in the West Batavia Cemetery. These are men who lived in Batavia when they were mustered into the military.

According to an article written by John Gustafson, eight of Batavia's soldiers were killed in action and sixteen more died in army hospitals, in southern prison camps, or at home on sick leave.

Following the war, veterans returning to Batavia formed a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. In the early days, there were more than 130 members in Post #48. Almost all of the men belonging to the post were residents of the city.

Post #48 originally met two times every month on Friday evenings. Minutes at the Depot Museum indicate that little business was conducted after 1910 except for resolutions of condolences for illness or death of its members. Election and installation of officers took place every year until the end, and occasionally a member was chosen to attend a state encampment. The post always participated in Decoration Day programs, the holiday established to honor deceased Civil War veterans.

By 1925 it appears from the minutes that each surviving member had to hold an office or two. As the group dwindled, the men began meeting in members' homes. In 1926 Daniel Zollers and James Fredendall died.

In 1927 the post gave the Batavia American Legion post the \$100 in Liberty Bonds it owned and passed to the



Picture taken before 1912 at Seymour A. Wolcott home on Union Avenue.

post the duty of tending to veterans' graves in Batavia cemeteries.

From 1927 on, the post met at James Stewart's home on East Wilson Street (now the vacant lot in the 100 block). By then, there were only four members left, Stewart, Henry K. Wolcott, S.A. Wolcott and Charles Barnes. Barnes was too ill to attend the meetings and died in August, 1928.

The remaining three men continued to meet in Stewart's home, electing

officers in December, installing them in January, and paying national dues. By now each man had to hold several offices.

H.K. Wolcott died in 1932, and the remaining two men continued to meet. After Stewart's death in October, 1934, Seymour A. Wolcott gave the \$5.00 in the treasury to the Women's Relief Corps and discharged the post. He was killed in an automobile accident in Wisconsin in September, 1940 -- the last of Batavia's Civil War veterans.

Batavians I Have Known - Don Schielke

by William J. Wood

It was my good fortune as a comparative newcomer to Batavia (53 years ago!) to gain as a friend a life-long Batavian, a fifth generation resident with links to some of the earliest settlers of our community. He was a person who, for almost 80 years, lived in and greatly loved his hometown as it grew from a town of some 4,000 citizens to a city with almost 23,000 inhabitants. In all those years, among all those people, Don Schielke left his own mark on Batavia.

Don had a great interest in history, believing that, if we hope to understand the present, we must know the history behind it, whether it is world

history or the history of Batavia. In 1943 Don's army unit was based in southern England while waiting for D-Day. Within walking distance of historic Stonehenge, Don visited it several times, standing in awe at the site and reflecting on its history. He was unable to get any of his buddies interested enough to accompany him to what they perceived as a "pile of old stones." He often pondered on why a sense of history was lacking in these men.

Here in Batavia Don had been raised with a sense of history and felt that he and his family were part of that history. His time spent in the family store gave him a feeling of "connect-

Continued on p. 6

More Swedish Nicknames

In earlier issues, most recently this past July's, we began listing the Swedish nicknames in Batavia that Edna Oleson had started, with help from her brother, Roland Peterson, and that Elliott Lundberg and Arnold O. Johnson completed in 1989. The list continues below:

NAME	NICKNAME	OTHER COMMENTS
Alma Carlson	Alma på hornet	Mrs. Carl Carlson, lived on the corner of Main and Harrison
Harry Carlson	Stora Carlson	
Emil Carlson	Crazy Emil	Brother of Ernest Garbielson
John Carlson	Kansas John	Boss of Challenge woodroom
John Carlson	Furniture Carlson	Earl Brogdon's father-in-law
Leonard Carlson	Magen (stomach)	Houston St.
Robert Carlson	Turk, also Skån	
	Svarta Carlson	Father of Ansgar Carlson, Carl, etc.
	Sjögate Carlson	
Anna Coleman	Red Anna	Wife of Emil Coleman, red hair
Hannah Engstrom	Lilla Hannah	Maiden name Hallongren
Hannah Erickson	Stora Hannah	Wife of Adolph Snus Erickson
Adolph Erickson	Snus Adolph	Always chewed snuff
Gabrielsons	Gabe	Brothers lived on McKinley St.
Carl Gustafson	Steamboat Carl	Sold tickets on Wilson St. to Fox River steamboat
Dr. O.W. Hubbard	Buffalo Bill Old Doc Yak	Wore wide brimmed hat and had handlebar mustache
Hanson	Chicken Hanson	Son of Sam Hanson
Adolph Johnson	Tinner Johnson	Father of Red Johnson
Anna Johnson	Stora Anna	Wife of Gust (Popcorn)
Alma Johnson	Martin's Alma	Wife of Martin J. (Wilson St.)
Anton Johnson	Spits	Father of Herbert and Albert
Arnold Johnson	Tuz	Morton St.
Arnold O. Johnson	Chuss	W. Wilson St.

(To be continued)

Batavians I Have Known - Don Schielke - Continued from p. 5

edness" with the past and current life of his community. His only regret about his years of working in Aurora was that from morning until evening he was not sharing in community life in Batavia and the making of its history through daily life.

In later years Don's volunteering at the Depot Museum gave him an opportunity to share with others, particularly newcomers, a knowledge of our local history. His membership in the TASC (Tuesday Afternoon Senility Club) was a great source of enjoyment for him as the group (including several classmates) worked on projects for the Batavia Historical Society. At times the work was pure gossip -- but

always with an historical bent! It was a rare Tuesday afternoon that he did not leave his spot at the dining room table to fetch a book from another room -- a book on Batavia history to settle some question being debated by the members.

Don was a giving/sharing person. His giving/sharing was most evident in his willingness to share what meant the most to him -- his son -- with individuals and with his city. He was proud of his son, proud of the son's part, as mayor for many years, in the making of Batavia history -- but that pride was never tinged with arrogance.

Friends were very important to Don, especially his classmates. Some were

classmates for twelve years, some for only the four years spent at Batavia High School. They were a close-knit group who enjoyed the society of one another year after year. Don, however, was always adding new friends to his list. He had the unique gift of relating with and to the younger generations. They returned that friendship and counted Don as a very special person in their lives.

We miss the physical presence of Don but retain another special presence and are truly grateful for our time spent with him and his effect on our lives. "God gave us memories so that we may have roses in December."

HIGHLIGHTS

Board of Directors Meeting

August 13, 1998

- The Plaque Committee reported they had met to review the Home Plaqueing procedure and presented revised forms for the Board's approval. The Board adopted the revised forms of the following documents:
 - "Historic Structure Plaque Policy"
 - "Procedure for the Issuance of Historic Structure Plaques"and correspondence to applicants.
- Application for a plaque was approved for the home of Eric and Linda Sailor at 315 North Prairie Street, with a date of 1892.
- A Program Committee has been established consisting of Dick Benson, Ruth Burnham, and Patty Will.
- A request for a county grant from the Elgin Casino has been approved. The Society will receive \$16,500, part of which will be used for Riverwalk plaques.

General Meeting

September 20, 1998

- Mr. and Mrs. Morris Johnson requested that people planning to attend the Cemetery Walk on October 4 purchase tickets ahead of time if possible. Tickets are \$3.00 if purchased in advance, and \$4.00 if purchased at the cemetery. Volunteers are needed.
- Mrs. Martha Cox told members about the small houses being planned for the "Home for the Holidays" event on the Riverwalk and said assistance will be much appreciated.
- Librarian Margo Cooper told about the plans for the new library and that a special area will be designated for genealogical and historical research.
- Ruth Johnsen urged all to take advantage of the free trolley rides around Batavia on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 - 5:00 through September.
- Marilyn Robinson narrated an interesting slide program on the 44 plaqued buildings in Batavia. The script, prepared by Marilyn, highlighted historical and architectural aspects of the buildings.

Batavia Historical Society

Unaudited **Statement of Income** for Quarter Ending June 30, 1998 and Year to Date

General Fund

	Quarter	Year to Date
Revenue:		
General Fund Int. Income	631.77	1,866.72
Dues	387.00	2,470.00
Donations Unrestricted	138.10	245.70
Donations for Newsletter	.00	642.71
Book Sales	197.80	578.70
John G. H. B. Book Sales	1,026.95	19,842.51
Windmill Sale	.00	10.00
Museum Sales	250.10	502.60
Gazebo Print Sales	<u>186.00</u>	<u>490.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>2,817.72</u>	<u>26,648.94</u>
Expense:		
Security System Monitor	90.12	266.15
Postage	32.00	236.29
Meeting Expense	148.67	489.61
Newsletter Expense	558.06	1,892.59
Insurance	.00	438.00
Display Material	282.24	282.24
Museum Display Repairs	95.00	95.00
Books & Material for Sale	111.60	1,450.01
Miscellaneous Expense	30.48	340.69
Cost of Prints Sold	.00	71.00
Cost of Prints Expense	.00	2,662.50
John G. H. B. Expense	<u>3,101.70</u>	<u>7,953.93</u>
Total Expense	<u>4,449.87</u>	<u>16,178.01</u>
Net Change in Fund	<u>1,632.15</u>	10,470.93

Special Project Fund

	Quarter	Year to Date
Revenue:		
Special Fund Int. Income	1,891.89	5,382.56
Donations Restricted	934.25	1,034.25
Memorials Restricted	40.00	60.00
Bequests Restricted	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>21,810.00</u>
Total Revenue	<u>12,866.14</u>	<u>28,286.81</u>
Expense:		
Total Expense	<u>.00</u>	<u>.00</u>
Net Change in Fund	<u>12,866.14</u>	28,286.81

Unaudited Balance Sheet as of June 30, 1998

Current Assets:

Checking Account	6,142.39
Money Fund	12,363.70
Certificates of Deposit	131,928.53
Vanguard Mutual Fund	36,201.60
John G. H. B. Books	<u>15,508.50</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>202,144.72</u>

Equity

Equity:

General Fund	
October 1, 1997	37,911.33
Increase for nine months	<u>10,470.93</u>
June 30, 1998	48,382.26
Special Projects Fund	
October 1, 1997	125,475.65
Increase for nine months	<u>28,286.81</u>
June 30, 1998	<u>153,762.46</u>
Total Equity	<u>202,144.72</u>

First Baptist Church of Batavia

Its First 100 Years -- 1836 - 1936

Seventh in a series on the churches of Batavia, the following is taken from *One Hundred Fifty Years of the First Baptist Church of Batavia*, published for the church's sesquicentennial in 1986. The first section of the history, which had been written by an unidentified author at the time of the church's Centennial in 1936, evidences such candor and humor, but withal faith in the church's ability to overcome obstacles that kept arising, that we present it here in abridged form, using the author's own words. Only where there was a need for summary or transition have we used our own words, which are presented in italics.



Andrew Jackson was President of the United States when the church began. Still in the possession of the church is the first minute book with the record of organization. The ink is a sepia for the most part, and in spots rather faint after its long useful career. The title page is inscribed: "Church Record of the Regular Baptist Church of Christ at Big Wood, Fox River, Illinois."

The first entry is dated June 16, 1836, and reads as follows:

"... Resolved that in the opinion of the meeting the time has arrived when it is expedient to associate together in church relation and to present ourselves for the fellowship of sister churches."

This is followed by the names of eight people: Isaac Wilson, Susanna Wilson, Major Osborn, Sophia Osborn, Lawrin Hurlbut, William E. Bent, Lucetta W. Bent, and Fanny L. Wilson. Other sources list the names of five more, making thirteen in all.

It was the practice of that period to hold "Covenant" meetings preparatory to Communion, in which prayer and testimony were given and business transacted. From the various entries regarding these Covenant meetings a rough sketch of the situation of the little church body can be imagined.

The group had no building of their own and met quite frequently at the home of Judge Isaac Wilson, who was also the clerk for some years, or in the local school-house. In 1844, we have the record that three Covenant meetings were held in the Presbyterian Church, one in the Congregational, and another in the Episcopal! Having no church home, they consequently had no baptism and the Fox river was utilized when needed. The following minute of April 6, 1845, is an interesting thumbnail sketch of what must have taken place many times:

"Lord's Day, after preaching by Elder Dudley, repaired to the waterside of the Fox River, and, after singing and praying, the Elder and Brother Martin went down into the water and Brother Martin was buried in water baptism and on the bank received the right hand of fellowship and closed the pleasing scene by prayer. Isaac Wilson, Church Clerk."

The minutes are by no means musty or filled with dry notations at this period, e.g. we have a letter of May 6, 1844, reproduced in entirety, which was sent by the church to a former brother who had committed the crime of joining the Methodist Church! We quote one phrase or two to give the flavor of it. "We sincerely desire that you would review this whole subject and be fully persuaded that you are building on the right foundation with gold tried in the fire."

Some idea of the membership is gleaned from the figures of 1844, when 45 members were reported, and again, in 1846, when 53 members were reported. In the last statement, 40 were listed as resident, but the poor attendances at the covenant meetings are indicative of a low spiritual and fraternal life.

The year of 1849 seems to be (from the record) one of general depression for the little church. In a February 11th minute we read: "The prospect of erecting a house of worship this season was talked over among the members. Circumstances unfavorable, and rather a dark day for the church." The next item of March 10 has but one sentence but speaks volumes: "Members did not attend meeting today." Again on August 25, "few in attendance; some detained by sickness,

harvesting, etc., but some others probably from cold indifference." During this year even the ink of the records seemed to share in the sense of weakness and remains a very faint brown!

On January 1, 1850, the tide of depression seems to have turned for the church. The work seemed to thrive under Elder Hovey (the new part-time pastor), so that on February 16, 1850, we read that his full time service could be secured for \$450 a year, which was accepted. At the same meeting there is the entry: "On motion voted that there be a committee of five appointed to take into consideration the propriety of building a meeting house" -- which committee was appointed.

The details of the erection of this first building are not recorded, but in the church letter to the Association held in Naperville and dated June 5, 1850, we read: "Dear Brethren: Since our last annual epistle there has been a great change in our prospects. We commenced the year with dark clouds hanging over us; some of the dear brethren were well nigh discouraged; but of late we have felt to enquire 'what shall we render to our God for all his kindness shown.' During the year Brother Hovey preached to us occasionally. The forefront of January we commenced a series of meetings and Brother Hovey remained with us, and in answer to prayer the Lord blessed his labors to the upbuilding of Zion. The church was revived . . . we have just completed a house of worship and

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First Baptist Church of Batavia Continued from p. 7

would cordially invite our brethren with their pastor to meet with us on Thursday next week when we wish them with us to celebrate the goodness of God in consecrating our house to his worship." Thus in 1850, after fourteen years without a church home, the first building was erected . . . At that time also the name of the church was changed to "The First Baptist Church of Batavia."

Finances were always a pressing problem. In the fall of 1851 a committee was appointed to work out a scheme where each member would pay "an equitable and just tax according to (his) property or . . . ability to pay."

Anyone who yearns for the "good Old Days" in church work should reflect on this minute! On May 22, 1852, a certain brother was charged with the following:

1st--for neglecting covenant of the church and also absenting himself from communion for years and publicly boasting of the same.

2nd--for being a railer.

3rd--for threatening to shoot a man or take his life on his way to California.

4th--for offering a reward for some one to take the life of another man by drowning or some other way.

5th--for slander.

6th--for dishonesty.

. . . Charges #1 and #2 were sustained and . . . the brother confessed #3 at a subsequent meeting! There followed a period of dissension and the above member with some eight others started a Campbellite Church in opposition. The associational letter of 1853 reads like Jeremiah's lament interspersed with quotations of apostolic optimism for which it is difficult to see a basis.

The minutes were very frank at times and display a desire to record truth rather than conciliatory nothings. For example, on March 11, 1854, with five men and one woman in attendance at Covenant Meeting the clerk stated that they all expressed "sorrow for the stupidity of the church."

A Home Mission Society worker, Rev. J.M. Cochran, took up the pastoral work on April 8, 1854, and the church shows signs of progress under his ministry. In the associational letter of June 1855, we read that "we have enjoyed an almost unbroken

season of rest from internal dissension, discord and strife." And again in the associational letter of June 1856, we discover the Sabbath School scholars now 100, with 33 volumes in the library and the church membership at 71. An interesting note in the church benevolence at this date is \$11.61 given for the Liberation of Slaves.

Feelings were evidently intense between denominations during these early years. On May 4, 1856, there was a baptismal service in the Fox River and the clerk writes that there was a large congregation to witness it "among whom was the celebrated Campbellite preacher, M.N. Lord, who appeared more like a spy in the camp of Israel than like a Saint, may God convert his soul."

Much could be written of the pungent entries in these old minute books. On August 9, 1856, we have this: "Met for Covenant meeting, but only 2 or 3 present, scarcely enough to claim the promise." (Referring of course to Matthew 18:20 -- "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.")

In the associational letter of 1864 we read: "our prayer to God is that this branch of Zion may become strong," yet when the statistics are placed side by side they reveal a steady decrease through the years from 1859, which marked the peak of membership -- 98. In 1861 there were 86; in 1862, 66; in 1863, 62; in 1864, 59; in 1865, 47. It appears as though the Lord was answering prayer on the principle of Gideon's army, where the untried and unfit were systematically weeded out!

The story of the next twenty years or so shows a succession of pastors, most of whom served only a year or so, and recurring financial problems. One of the outstanding pastors came in March, 1886, Rev. G.M. Daniels. Things were none too bright when he came for the trustees had to borrow \$100 in November of that year to pay his salary! The 50th anniversary of the church was not celebrated in any way so far as the minutes show, arrangements for such being "postponed indefinitely."

On April 4, 1887, a business meeting was called for the express purpose of considering the building of a new church. The following resolution was read and accepted:

WHAT'S DOING AT THE MUSEUM?

by Carla Hill, Director

It's hard to believe that summer is over! The Junior Member Program at the museum went very well. In August eight of the Junior Members helped prepare the new fall display, "Where Does It Hurt?" The new display features many of Batavia's doctors and dentists as well as many medical artifacts that were loaned to us by Bert Johnson and Ron Royce. This is a great display so make plans to stop in and visit.

The west side of the caboose has been repaired and we have scheduled to have it completely repainted in early spring 1999.

The first annual Museum Open House will take place on Sunday, September 27. We are hoping that this is a successful event that will attract many of Batavia's third grade students and their families.

The museum volunteer trip will take place on October 16. We will be visiting Graceland Cemetery in

Chicago. Graceland has many wonderful large monuments decorating the grave sites of well known people such as Marshall Field, Louis Sullivan and George Pullman.

On Sunday, November 8, we will be sponsoring a Batavia historic area bus tour. Marilyn Robinson will give the participants a historic overview of many of Batavia's homes and churches. This event will be open to the general public.

The Christmas ornament this year will feature the Calvary Episcopal Church and will be available after November 1 at the Batavia Park District office.

We are working on many exciting projects this fall and we will be looking for volunteers to help with many of the special events. If you are interested in volunteering at the museum or for any of the special events, please contact me at 879-5235 or Kathy Fairbairn at 406-9041.

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Society Receives \$16,500 Grant from County

Following a presentation by Carla Hill on September 8, 1998, the Kane County Board approved a \$16,500 grant to the Society from Riverboat Funds for historical "Past and Present Plaques" to be placed on the Riverwalk and for a microfilm reader/printer.

The plaques will give visitors to the Riverwalk a visual perspective of the past and present. Placed in several spots along the river's edge, they will show what an area looked like in the mid-to-late 1800s. In some cases buildings portrayed, such as those where the Appleton and Challenge windmills were made, are still visible from the Riverwalk.

The museum receives many requests from people who are doing historical and education research. Many local records and newspapers are currently available on microfilm. These and others that will be microfilmed will enhance the museum's collection and, with the availability of the reader/printer, the ability to answer requests and prepare exhibits.

The Society's request for these funds was suggested by Bob Brown, a member of the long-range planning committee, and was sponsored by Douglas Weigand, our representative on the Kane County Board. We appreciate their efforts and the support of the County Board.

First Baptist Church of Batavia Continued from p. 8

"Resolved that the Trustees be authorized to sell the parsonage when \$2,000 have been subscribed; this together with the sum realized from sale of parsonage and what can be raised from every available source be expended in the erection of a new church edifice at the earliest opportunity."

... The first enthusiasm waned, for action was delayed and not until December 1889 was the old church building sold for \$100. The minutes do not record the date of laying the foundation stone or when the building was completed, but from other sources we learn that it was dedicated on March 17, 1889.

The church building and furnishings cost \$8,600 of which \$7,283 had been paid by former subscriptions, leaving a debt of \$1,317 to be met. Monday evening the pleasant eloquence and native wit of Dr. Rowlands and Elder Hobbs kept the people in such a happy frame of mind that the amount was soon raised; and when, notwithstanding the "doubting Thomases" the Clerk announced that the amount of indebtedness had been raised, the vast congregation made the walls resound with "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

Again the church became lax in money matters and on June 2, 1892, owed the pastor \$243.33. This was followed by his resignation in August and his removal on October 30, 1892. *The next decade shows continuing financial problems and pastoral turnover.*

Rev. R. Marshall was invited to serve and assumed full charge on August 4, 1901. We notice a minute

referring to a union service held in the [Methodist] Church on the evening of September 15, 1901 on account of the death of President McKinley.

After a long absence of statistics from the minutes we were glad to see them resumed in the annual report of January 1902. There the membership is reported as 107. In January 1903 Rev. Marshall resigned but offered to supply the pulpit for \$10 a Sunday until other plans were formulated. As he had been paid nearly \$20 a week at his inauguration it looks as though financial problems had again played bogey man in the Baptist Church.

The next twenty-five years show the church see-sawing between periods of prosperity and periods of financial crisis. This reflected itself in a continuing turnover of pastors, at least one seemingly leaving without his salary paid in full. Apparently there was some plan afoot for a merger of the Christian and Baptist churches but, after a couple of meetings, the idea was abandoned. And there are hints of recurring dissension -- and possibly of bad relations (unexplained) with the community.

A new pastor was found in Rev. R.C. Bensen, who came into this difficult situation on November 27, 1927. Mr. Bensen did not stay long, but was well liked and did much to promote the harmony which the church sorely needed. He left to assume the duties of a professor in Hamilton, Canada, in June 1930.

The harmony was well continued by the coming of Rev. Aron L. Roth, who began his pastorate on October 12, 1930. At the annual business meeting of 1931 the church membership

stood at 137. Mr. Roth was an aggressive worker and noted for producing unusual services and publicity for the church. The attendances at the annual business meetings are a good indication of the state of the church. In 1933 there were 125 present and in 1935, 135 present. At this last meeting the membership had risen from 130 to 200.

On June 14, 1936, the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the church was celebrated. In the evening an historical pageant depicting the life of the church was given under the direction of Erma Jeffery. For this service Deagan Chimes had been installed in the organ as a Centennial Memorial by various members and friends.

Epilogue

The booklet issued at the time of the Centennial closed with these words: The present vitality of the church and its leadership, we believe, are demonstrated by the unusual way the church has advanced and carried on through the recent depression years, all of which speaks well for the church's prospect as it enters upon its second century.

These words have certainly proved prophetic. In the years since, the educational unit has been added, the sanctuary has been remodeled, and continuing improvements have been made. With a membership now totaling more than 300, the First Baptist Church looks with renewed confidence toward the carrying out of its mission in the years ahead.

Batavia Historical Society Membership 1998

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dues Structure:

- Individual \$5.00
- Joint/Family \$10.00
- Junior \$1.00
- Classroom \$5.00
- Life (each) \$75.00
- Life (family) \$125.00
- Business or Institution \$10.00
- Business or Institution Life \$100.00

Mail to:
Treasurer
Batavia Historical Society
P.O. Box 14
Batavia, Illinois 60510

This membership is being given as a gift

Prompt payment of dues is appreciated!

- You may put your name, address, and membership category on a separate sheet if you do not want to clip the above form.
- If you would like to give a membership as a gift, send the above information and dues to the Society and indicate in the box above that it is to be a gift. The gift membership card will be mailed to you so that you may enclose it with a personal card or note.

Museum Director: Carla Hill
Editor: William D. Hall
Historian: William J. Wood

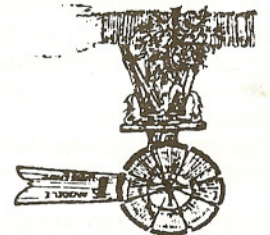
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