

## Pioneer Life Featured in Paper Doll Display



Kim Mullins has arranged the new display of BettyWettstein's paperdolls. This one contains dolls from pioneer or frontier times along with numerous artifacts that give the arrangement a rustic flavor. The display will be up for the months of September and October.



Alma Lee's granddaughter Shelby Lee Cunningham visited the Lee Log Cabin on September 3. She recalled visits to the place when she was a child. Shelby lives in Chicago now.

## Constitution and By-Laws To Be Updated

At the October 2017 meeting of the Society, members will be asked to approve the changes to the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization. The previous update of the document was accomplished in 1995, and there have been significant changes in our operational structure since then.

- The name of the organization shall be The Woodford County Historical and Genealogical Society.
- We no longer have a Corresponding Secretary; the Secretary shall take care of all correspondence.
- The annual dues shall cover the period from January 1 through December 31.
- A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be four (4).
- Officers shall be elected at the November meeting.
- The Annual Meeting shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday of March. All officers shall assume their offices at the annual meeting.
- Terms of office shall be 2 years. The President and Secretary shall be elected on the even dated years, and the Vice President and Treasurer elected on the odd dated years.

## Contents

Paper Doll Display	349
Constitution/By-Law Update	349
Lee Log Cabin	349
Newspaper Transcription	350
Keeping In Touch	351
Barn Update	351
Solomon Gingrich Story	352
School Notes	353
History of Slabtown	354
Index	355
Membership Application	355
1931 Eureka HS Basketball Champs	536

## TRANSCRIPTIONS OF OLD NEWSPAPERS

*Metamora Herald*  
October 7, 1938

### CCC CAMP DISCONTINUED;

Transfer Boys to Nevada

The CCC camp located in Woodford county on route 150 between Goodfield and Congerville the last four years and known as Camp Eureka, is to be abandoned and within a week will be practically deserted.

Announcement of the abandonment of the Woodford camp was received some days ago and work on dismantling the camp was already begun when the Associated Press brought confirmation Wednesday of the decision to abandon Camp Eureka company, known as the 1682d, which will be assigned to a project at Camp Cedar City, Nevada.

This news was included in a general announcement made by Maj. Gen. Hugh A. Drum, commander of the sixth corps area. Four CCC companies composed of Illinois enrollees, will be transferred to camps in Nevada and Utah. New projects will be assigned to 12 other CCC companies in Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

The four Illinois companies, each composed of 195 enrollees between the ages of 17 and 21, will depart from their present camps in the central and south part of Illinois for their new posts on or about Oct. 10 and will bring the number of Illinois companies serving outside the sixth corps area to 25. The trip will be made by rail in special trains provided by the war department.

Of the four Illinois camps vacated, two, those in Murphysboro and Eureka, will be abandoned. The other two, at Leroy and Elmwood, will be manned by new companies moving in from projects completed or discontinued. Ten other companies are moving to new camps because of the completion of the work at their present location.

The new assignments included: 1625th company from Camp Murphysboro, Murphysboro, Ill., to Camp Golconda, Golconda, Nev.

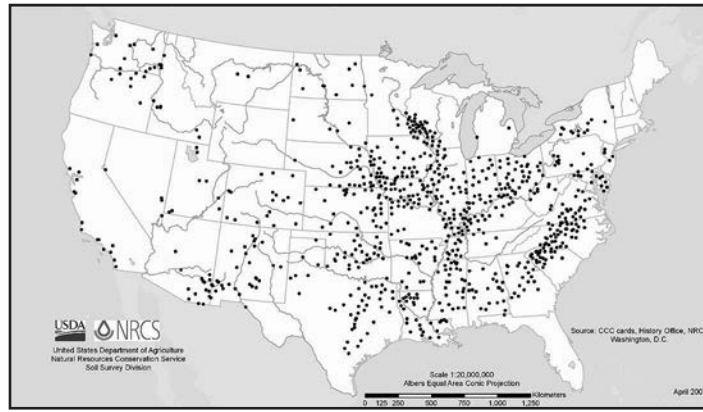
1662nd company from Camp Leroy, Leroy, Ill., to Camp Callao, Callao, Utah.

1682 from Camp Eureka, Eureka, Ill., to Camp Cedar City, Cedar City, Nev.

2659th company from Camp Elmwood, Elmwood, Ill., to Camp McDermitt, Winnemucca, Nev.

### APPLICATION IN FOR WOODFORD PWA GRANT

James Tweddale of Linn, chairman of the Woodford board of supervisors,



*CCC Camps in the US in 1938. The one at Eureka was tasked with combatting soil erosion on local farms.*

and A. B. Hurd, county superintendent of highways, took applications for a PWA grant for black-topping about four miles of county roadway to the PWA office in Chicago Wednesday last week. The applications call for surfacing with black top the following sections of roadway:

Approximately one mile at Benson, one mile at Roanoke, one mile at Lowpoint and one mile at El Paso. The estimated cost of the four sections of the road is \$22,062 of which the county's share will be \$12,134.

Another resolution of the board provides for the construction of 2.58 miles of state aid road in Worth township, north from route 116 near Germantown. This includes grading, drainage and graveling of the road and \$15,000 was appropriated for the completion of the work.

### AWARDS TO 4-H GIRLS MADE AT COUNTY-WIDE PARTY HELD ON OCT. 1

The following awards were made at the County-Wide 4-H Party held at the Farm Bureau building in Eureka Oct. 1. The project champions and honor roll girls were chosen by the 4-H county committee and ten 4-H leaders. Each leader scored special parts of the year's projects and the total scores have been listed.

Project champions, \$1; honor roll girls, 75 cents.

#### *Project Champions*

Lucille Knapp, Adele deWerff, Oleta Sharp, Adeline Alt, Dolores Klein, Evelyn Schirer, Edwardina Leman, Hope Jones, Mary Louise Briggs, Lucille Ruestmann, Margaret Sharp, Helen Treece, Margaret Guard, Jeanette Frerichs, Mary Elizabeth Nauman, Betty Jane Howell, Virginia Keidel.

#### *Honor roll*

Delphine Finley, Maurine Moser, Imelda Rohman, Virginia Henderson,

Rosemary Wilson,  
Dorothy Schmidt,  
Betty Jones, Miriam Gamble, Patricia Murphy, Mary Hodel, Wilma Rocke, Charlotte Tanton, Eleanor Howell, Doris Zimmerman, Mildred Jury, Eva Jane Pinkham, Dorothy Widmer, Coral Belcher, Marjorie Zook, Eunice Greider, Mary E. Heck, Margaret Rients,

Helen Jury, Mary Catherine Frerichs, Evelyn Sharp, Arlene Lehman, Shirley Gibbs, Ruth Streid, Doris O'Marah, Ethel White, Dorothy Jury, Barbara Clark, Elizabeth Moritz, Muriel Gresham, Loretta McLaughlin, Maybelle Bally, Betty Mae Kern, Phyllis Hodel, Rita McNamara, Ardetta Kern, Edith Irene Henderson, Rosemary Sharp, Irma Onken, Marjorie Harnish.

\$60 was given out at the county contest this year for entry fees. Each girl was allowed 25 cents fee for entering each project. Transportation expenses for State Fair representatives were allowed and awards to two outstanding 4-H members for camp activities.

#### *5Year Outstanding Numbers*

Thirteen outstanding members have been chosen for their excellent work in five or more years of club work. Cash prizes will not be awarded to these members but the girls will have an opportunity to send all their past records to the University October 15 to compete for National Honors.

The following girls have been chosen:

7 Years – Maurine Moser, Hope Jones, Margaret Sharp, Evelyn Sharp

6 Years – Oleta Sharp, Betty Kern, Virginia Henderson

5 Years – Lucille Knapp, Betty Jones, Ardetta Kern, Betty Treece, Marjorie Zook, Edwardina Lehman.

#### *Gypsies Steal \$11*

Two gypsy women are reported to have entered the home of John Smith in Eureka about 7:30 a.m. Monday, asking for bread and when Mr. Smith asked them to leave, they are said to have taken his pocketbook and escaped with \$11. The sheriff was notified but no clues have been found.





**JUST IN! 4-in-1 Woodford County Platbook, \$125**  
**Woodford County Veterans: Respect and Remember + the Addendum, \$35**  
**History of Eureka** by Burris Dickinson \$45 (3 copies)  
**History of Woodford County**, by Roy Moore, 1910. Indexed. Reprint \$35.  
**Souvenir History of Woodford County, 1991** \$25  
**Woodford County History - 1968 - \$45**  
**Atlas of Woodford County - 1920 - \$125** (2 copies)  
**History of Woodford County 1878** Reprint, indexed - \$75  
**1917 Prairie Farmer Directory of Farmers and Breeders of Woodford County.** Reprint, \$25.  
**Woodford County Cookbook** by K. Barber \$10  
**Woodford County plat books** for, 1981, 1986, 1990 and 2000 \$10 each  
**1976 Map of Eureka - \$1**  
**Woodford County Rural Directories:** 1977, 1980, 1986. \$7.50 each.  
**Woodford County Bicentennial Calendar - \$5.00**  
**Eureka High School Yearbooks** for 1950, 1957, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1974 - 10.00  
**Washburn Bicentennial 1850-1976** With index \$10  
**Eureka College Echoes Vol. 1** \$15  
**Guide to Woodford County Historical Sites -** with index \$10  
 \*Most of these books were donated to the Society.

(Please add \$5 for shipping and handling if the book must be mailed.)



## RESEARCH REQUESTS

We will do searches of our materials for a donation of \$10 per surname or \$10 an hour. The charge is the same for simple courthouse searches except that the County Clerk also requires a fee of \$5 per surname. An additional charge will be made for copies and postage.

Requests can be made by email (kdfyke@mchsi.com) or U.S. Post sent to WCHS, 112 N. Main, Eureka 61530.

### 2017 Officers

President: **Kim Mullins** 360-9945  
 Vice-President: **Beth Miller** 275-8860  
 Treasurer: **Barbara Bradle** 467-3106  
 Secretary: **Karen Fyke** 360-6772  
 Trustees: **Maurice Yordy, Steve Colburn, and Roger Studer**

website: [wchisgensoc.org](http://wchisgensoc.org)

The Archive is published quarterly by the Woodford County Historical Society 112 N. Main St., Eureka, IL 61530

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

### NEWS OF OUR MEMBERS:

#### New Members:

Mary Kay **Harms**, Minonk  
 Barbara **Lancaster**, Gridley  
 Eric **Wettstein**, River Forest (lifetime member)

Our friend and past president Murlene **Kramer** is back in Metamora for the near future.

We are accepting nominations for the WCHS Service Award which will be awarded at the November meeting. Nominations are due by October 1. Send to Karen **Fyke**, 617 N. Webster, Eureka, IL 61560.

Reminder: Those who begin their membership in the WCHS between Sept. 1 and January 1 pay half-year dues of \$10 for a single member. In January their dues for 2018 will be charged at the regular yearly rate.

### Final Davidson Barn Report

It is with heavy hearts that we must report that the restructuring of the 180 year old barn into a community center for the City of Eureka is dead. The site offered and preferred by the City was at Eureka Lake, and the opposition to the site infected the whole project. With no ability to overcome the negativity and no other suitable place within the limits of the City, Barnstorming, Inc. has ceased working on the project.

It's sad that the efforts have not yielded the much-needed community center for Eureka. It would have been a virtually free building for the city, and a self-supporting one once it was completed.

Our thanks to Steve **Colburn** whose dream it was to move the barn and retain its historical significance, and to all the others who worked selflessly and long on the project or who made monetary donations.

### Lee Log Cabin Update

It has been a successful season for the Cabin. It has been open to guests nearly every Sunday since it opened in late May. People who drop by are impressed and pleased, and we owe a big debt of gratitude to Beth **Miller** for taking on the job of getting the cabin fixed up and staffed.

In years gone by there were many, many people from Metamora who were members of the Society, but now there are only two. We need to reach out to the Metamora community and show them how the Society can be a part of their lives. Please invite your Metamora friends to our meetings and encourage them to join in the worthy work that we do to preserve history and to educate.

### RECENT RESEARCH ROOM GUESTS

**James & Nancy Hall**, MO  
 Myron & **Donna Graber**, Lawrence, KS  
 Alan & Marilyn **King**, Delaware, OH  
 Mareba **Lyons**, Roanoke  
 Anita **Hess**, CA  
 Debra **Marquis**, Carlock  
 Tom **Giehl**, Princeton  
 Ken **Brehm**, Eureka  
 Joseph & Madeline **Deckard**, W. Chester, OH

# Solomon David Gingrich Story

*Editor's note: This is the 13th installment of Solomon David Gingrich's story.*

*Typed by Art Esch, January 20, 1964  
Continued from Fall 2016 Archive*

## OATS SEEDING

When Sol and Joe came home from school, their father told them to put the oats seeder on the wagon. They got the seeder from the old house and brought the Schuttler wagon, the one that they bought without any seat or top box on it. Then they went in the house and ate supper. After supper, they read the *Metamora* paper and played hide the button. Then the next morning they got up at 6:30 and went out and helped milk. After breakfast they hitched up the horses to the disk that was in the barn. Sol got on the seat and disked the 50 north of the barn. Joe got the other disk from the barn and hitched it to Sam, Dick, Nell and Pet. Sol's father hitched the oats seeder to Minnie and Tops and seeded behind them as they disked. Then they disked again. Sol's father seeded the clover seed that they bought at the Lowpoint elevator. Then Sol and Joe got the harrow from the house.

## Bank at Metamora

On Saturday at 1 p.m. they left to go to the bank at Metamora. They hitched up the horses around the square. Then they went into the bank. It had electric lights that had engraved glass covering the top of the 6 bulbs. The bulbs were not coated and they were bigger. Glass ran from the counter to the ceiling gray-blue wall paper, and they had a little cash register that had tubes running into a pan so they could make change. They asked them for the key to their bank box. They all walked along the west aisle and went into the room and looked at their abstract. Then they went to **Conrad's grocery store**, **Brindell's Harness shop**, and **Belsley Brother's Implement Company** to get some repairs for their manure spreader. They planned to fix the spreader that afternoon.

## Lowpoint

Next Saturday they went to Lowpoint to get their haircuts. They went to **Brown's Barber Shop**, a half of a block north-west of **Banta Brother's Store**. In the shop they sat down on the benches and waited their turn. The barber cut with scissors for awhile and then he got the hot water off the stove and the brush, mug, and straight razor off the desk and started to shave them.

They rang up Uncle Andrew **Bachman's** to ask them to come for dinner Sunday. They went to church on Sunday and after church, Bertha, Tillie, and Pete came behind them

from church. Sol and Joe put their horses in the barn; Pete took the other horses over to the tank to get a drink and then lead them to the barn. Sol and Joe fed them some oats from the bin and corn from the old wood box that they had made down at the **Spring Bay lumber yard** in 1887 for \$6 because the lumber cost \$5 and it took them all day to make the box, so they had to pay \$1 labor. They threw down some hay from the hay mow.

They all went into the house and sat in the sitting room. Pete said, "I had to haul corn three days last week."

Joe said, "There's quite a few who are shelling."

Sol's father said, "I think I'll be shelling next week."

Then Mary said, "The vittles is ready now."

Their dinner was beef roast, potatoes, lettuce, peaches and cake. The women folk did the dishes in the pantry and Sol showed Pete their new stereoscope that they bought.

Pete said, "Those is pretty nice pictures to look at."

Then Jo said, "Pete, do you want to play a game of checkers?"

Pete answered, "I haven't played checkers for so long I ain't very good at it. A couple of yous other folks might want to play."

So Sol and his father played a game.

Then Pete said, "It's getting a little late; I guess we'd better be getting home."

After Pete left, Sol and Joe did their chores.

## Colts

Sol, Joe and their father went out to the barn to break in the colts. They put a rope around the colt's head and walked them around the yard. Then they hitched them on to the wagon and drove them around the yard and then down the road. The black horse jumped with his front feet up in the air. They unhitched him and took the other one out and drove him around.

## Plowing

They went out and plowed with their new riding plow that they had recently bought. Before that they had used their old walking plow that Sol used since he was 15. They plowed south of Amelia's corn crib.

## Planting Corn – May

Sol and Joe disked with their colts that they were breaking in with some older horses. They harrowed and got the corn planter from the machine shed. Joe planted the corn.

## Herdng Cows

The next week it rained. Sol drove the cattle out to eat on the road. He took stops to ride and then he stopped and sat down and read

the *Metamora* paper, *The Prairie Farmer*; and the book *The Life of William McKinley*. Then he had to ride down the road to turn them around.

## Cultivating Corn

Sol got his walking cultivator out of the machine shed. It's the one he had used last year. He hitched up Doll and Black and cultivated one row of corn at a time. Sol's father got the sickle out of the horse mower and they sharpened it while the other poured water on the grinding wheel. They put some new slates in the hayloader, slates that they got at the lumber yard. Then they put some new teeth they had bought at **Belsley's Implement Co.** in the side delivery rake.

After that they pulled some vines out of the corn and fixed some fence.

## Last Day of School

The last day of the school year they got up at 7:00, ate their breakfast, went to the sink in the dining room and washed their faces and combed their hair. Then they changed into their school clothes and walked down to the corner where **Herron**, who lived where **Roger Bachman's** live now, met them. When they were at school, they played blackman until the teacher rang the bell. Then they went in and sang "Ho, Ho, Vacation Days are Here" and few more other songs.

The teacher talked for awhile and then they went out and played hide and seek, drop the handkerchief, upset the fruit basket, and pussy wants a corner. Their parents came in their carriages with dinner. They put a rug down on the ground and a table cloth over the rug. Sol's mother and father brought fried chicken, a can of apples, and a bunch of bananas they had bought at **Mundell's Store** in Cazenovia the night before. They kept the bananas in the basement over night.

**Garber's** brought potato salad, ham sandwiches, and pickles that they had made with their own cucumbers. The **Veoleckers** brought a chocolate cake, one of the five she had baked the night before, oranges that they bought at **Conrad's Grocery Store**, and Jello that they bought in a box for 8 cents a box at Conrad's store in Metamora. They mixed it up last night.

Everyone ate under the trees.

After lunch they went inside for a spelling match, and then they asked each of them to name the capital of a different state.

The teacher, Oray **Dyar** from Lowpoint, knew a few folks from up that way that played some instruments, so he had them come and play. The orchestra had one guitar and 2 violins and sat over on the east side on a bench and played for 5 minutes. After that they sang a song, and the teacher gave his

*Continued on page 354*

## School Notes

Editor's Note: Combing through the bound copies of the *Woodford County School Bulletin*, I've found many items that I think you will find interesting. -- KF

### HOT LUNCHES IN RURAL SCHOOL

Miss Olive **Taylor** of the Thorpe School, District #52, writes that they are enjoying their hot lunches very much. On Monday and Friday of each week they have baked potatoes, baked in the school room heater. On the remaining three days the children take turns in bringing something hot such as soup. This is kept warm on the heater and served at noon in dishes the children have brought. 1920-21, Jan. p. 16

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

(Note the date) The pupils had an enjoyable time at school on Friday, December 24. Pop corn was popped and taffy pulled, after which the presents were taken from the Christmas tree and distributed. The teacher is Gertrude **Hughes**. 1920-21, Jan., p. 11

### RURAL SCHOOL CHALLENGE

The challenge made by the Panola School in the November number of the bulletin has been accepted by the Roth school taught by Miss Mildred **Green**. The contest will be in spelling and arithmetic. The contestants will be chosen from the 6th and 8th grades of the Panola and Roth schools. The contest will occur the evening of Jan. 28, 1921, at the Roth School 2 miles northeast of Panola beginning at 7:45 sharp. The winner in this contest challenges any rural school of Woodford County to a similar contest any time in February. Anyone interested write Miss Mildred Green or Mr. Clarence **Foster**, Panola, Ill. 1920-21, January, p. 16

### NEW WELL AT DAVENPORT SCHOOL

The Board of Education of the Davenport School have let the contract for a well on the school grounds and a pressure tank and electric pump will be installed, so that the school will have a constant water supply. The frequent failure of the city water supply caused the school to be dismissed frequently and resulted in an unfortunate loss of time. The improvement will be a valuable one for the district. 1918-19, Sept., p. 14



## DOMESTIC SCIENCE SUMMER SCHOOL - 1913

In District # 73 [Tomb, pronounced "Tom"] a new and very satisfactory plan for teaching domestic science in the rural schools has been followed. Permission was secured by Miss Amanda **Jennings** and Mrs. J. C. **Tomb**, two competent women of the neighborhood to use the school house from May 1st to September 1st. The directors were asked to purchase some planed boards to lay across the desks for cutting tables. The classes were open to girls from the 3 districts adjoining. There was no charge connected with the work, but each girl was expected to bring a tape line, scissors, thimble, notebook, pencil, pins, needles and material for a dress. The ages of the girls ranged from 12 - 19 years.

The class was divided, one teacher taking the even numbered pupils and the other the

odd numbered. Some of the pupils had a little experience in fancy work, while some had never learned how to use a thimble or tie a knot.

Pupils were taught tailor system of measurements. During the summer 43 dresses were worked upon. Various grades of cotton goods were studied. The raw cotton was also taken up, examined and the uses were discussed. Besides the dresses, various other garments were made.

Aside from this, much practical work was done in giving instruction concerning washing and laundry work, the various kinds of soaps, and recipes for home made soap.

Twenty-one girls were enrolled in the class. The directors in one of the adjoining districts have asked that the work be given in their district next year. September, p. 5.

### SCHOOL CHILDREN DO HONOR TO THE SOLDIERS

The pupils of the Eureka schools joined with a great throng of others in doing honor to the 68 men who left Wednesday afternoon for the training camp at Des Moines, IA. A patriotic address was delivered by Prof. B. J. **Radford**, and music, appropriate to the occasion was furnished by the school, by the Davenport orchestra, and by the Roanoke, Toluca and Washburn bands. Every effort was made to show honor to the boys who are soon to take up the country's battle. Jan. 1917-18, p. 8

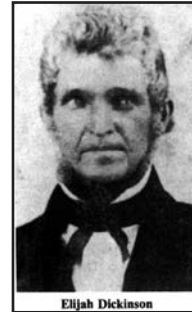
### A MESSAGE FOR TODAY FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

"Let every American, every lover of liberty, every well wisher to his posterity, swear by the blood of the Revolution never to tolerate their violation by others. As the patriots of seventy-six did to the support of the Constitution and Laws let every American pledge his life, his property and his sacred honor. Let every man remember that to violate the Law is to trample on the blood of his father, and to tear the charter of his own and his children's liberty.

"Let reverence for the laws be breathed by every American mother to the lisping babe that prattles on her lap; let it be taught in schools, in seminaries and in colleges; let it be written in primers, spelling books and almanacs; let it be preached from the pulpit, proclaimed in the legislative halls and enforced in courts of justice.

In short, let it become the political religion of the nation; and let the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the grave and the gay of all senses and tongues and colors and conditions, sacrifice unceasingly upon its altars." Feb. p. 1.

### FIRST GRADUATE OF EUREKA COLLEGE PASSES AWAY



E. W. **Dickinson**,

the first graduate of Eureka College, passed away at his home in Eureka Monday, December 27th, 1920. He was 86 years of age and graduated in 1860, being the first graduate of the college which was

organized as an institution of college rank in 1855. It had previously existed a number of years as a seminary and as an academy. *Woodford County School Bulletin*, 1920-21, January, p. 14.



### Financial Statement August 2017

ACCOUNT	ACTIONS	TOTAL
Checking	+368.90 (dues/book sales) -391.02 (rent, postage, Archive)	1119.44
Passbook	+\$250.00 (Wettstein memorial)	\$6,074.38
Dickinson CD		Remains the same
Reg. Book Fund		\$12,344.14
Lifetime memberships	-2017 dues	\$1,665.51

## THE STORY OF SLABTOWN

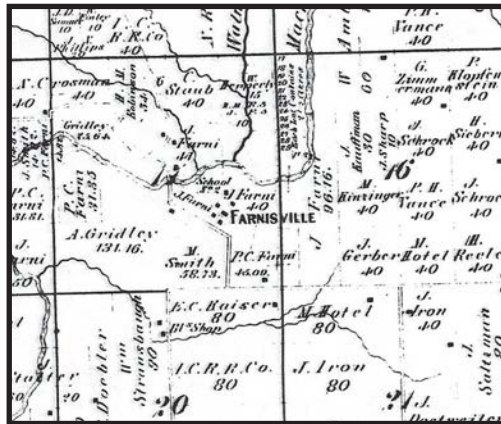
Written by Selma Voorhees (1921-2013)

The name Slabtown is familiar to almost every boy or girl in the county, yet few of them know that it was once a busy village with bright prospects of future greatness. It was located on the banks of the Mackinaw River in Montgomery Township, near the present site of Mackinaw Dells. In 1835 a saw mill was built by Joseph **Gingerich** and Peter **Farni**. It was not until fifteen years afterwards that a store was opened by Isaac **Evans**. He kept a stock of groceries and general merchandise. It was from a little store building that the town derived its name. The owner, Isaac Evans, had built his structure of slabs from the mill, hence the name. This store changed hands frequently, passing first into the hands of Fred **Niergarth**. Finally after numerous changes it became the property of **Minor Bros**. This firm owned a well-equipped grist mill on the banks of the Mackinaw River and did a thriving business. The mill was equipped with three buhrs. The firm was composed of three brothers, John, James and William. The former afterward went to Peoria and became deputy sheriff of that county.

Joseph **Klopfenstein** opened a butcher shop there in 1858 and also had a grocery in connection with it. He came to Eureka twice a week, and supplied that vicinity with meat. It appears strange to the reader of the present-day that Eureka should have at one time depended on the meat market of Slabtown for its meat. He was frequently able to supply his customers with venison that Samuel **Finley** had secured for him. Mr. Klopfenstein made this trip for two years.

**Carlson** and **Siebens** conducted a brewery, and were also at one time owners of a general store there. The chief industry of the place, however, was a large distillery owned and operated by two Frenchmen

from St. Louis named **Boutchem** and **Cari**. The plant cost about \$30,000, and when in full operation employed about 50 men. The distillery was erected in 1847. After the railroad was completed through Eureka, they sent most of their products to Eureka or Cruger for shipment by rail. R. N. **Radford**, who was connected with the post office at Eureka, at the time the firm was doing business at Slabtown states that he collected \$5 a week postage from this firm



Slabtown doesn't appear on the plat map of 1873. It was just across the river from Farnisville. Today all

on mail received by them. The owners of the land lacked capital for the conducting of such extensive business, and did not meet with success. In 1859 the distillery was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. Christian **Farni**, a wealthy farmer who had unbounded confidence in the members of the firm, lost heavily as a result of their failure. He had sold the entire products of his farm to the firm and was also security for them. His loss amounted to \$34,000. His brother, Peter **Farni**, also lost heavily, but not nearly as much as Christian. There were others who suffered losses, but these were the principal parties. The distillery had

been well equipped, having in connection with it a grist mill for grinding their own grain.

Slabtown enjoyed a flourishing trade, and seemed destined to make a town of considerable size, but railroads passing through other parts of the county, opening them to direct connections with the outside world by rail, sounded the death knell to every hope of the little village.

Across the river from Slabtown was Farnisville, named in honor of Mr. Farni, on whose land it was located. The name has since become Fannyville, through common use. There was for many years a store there, conducted by Adolph **Habeck**. After closing his store he went to Roanoke, where his death occurred several years ago. Jacob **Hoger** also conducted a boarding house there. No sign of their former business activities is to be seen at either Slabtown or Farnisville. The former population has been scattered and many of its older citizens have passed to their reward. At the latter point there still stands an Amish church, built in 1874, which has served as a place of worship since that time. There was at one time a post office at Farnisville, but it only continued a short time.

John **Finley**, now a resident of Eureka, tells an interesting story in connection with Slabtown, that will throw some light on conditions at that time. He and Mrs. Finley had taken a lot of eggs to Eureka, but there was no market for them and they had to carry them back home again. The next day she took them to Slabtown and there received three cents a dozen for them and took in exchange cotton at 5 cents a pound. Within three weeks from that time cotton was worth 85 cents a pound, due to the increase in price caused by the war in the south.

## Solomon Gingerich Story continued from page 342

farewell speech. He said he enjoyed the year and hoped everyone would get rested over the summer and be eager for the beginning of the new school year.

They took their school books home with them: Reader, arithmetic, U.S. history, and physiology. They put them in their upstairs closets. They changed their clothes and played in the yard and watched Laura so their

mother could go and feed the chickens.

Ed helped Sol get the cobs that they left in baskets on the porch since they had taken the old cob box to the barn.

They ate supper and played hide the button, after which they pronounced words to each other to write down and checked to see how many each of them got right.

### Weeds

Sol had to go with his father to the field to pull weeds. After that the boys helped their mother in the garden and mowed the lawn with a push lawnmower. Sol pushed it awhile and then Joe pushed it awhile, but when the grass got too long, they tied a rope on the front and one pulled and one pushed.

*To be continued*

The WCHS Headquarters, 112 N. Main, Eureka, is open to the public Tues., Wed., and Thurs. afternoons, 1-4. To make arrangements to use the resources at other times, please call Kim Mullins at (309) 360-9945 or Beth Miller at (309) 275-8860. Send research requests by email to [kdfyke@mchsi.com](mailto:kdfyke@mchsi.com). Website: [wchisgensoc.org](http://wchisgensoc.org).

INDEX

Alig 329	Clark 350	Giehl 351	Kern 350	Mundell's Store 352	Spring Bay Lumber Co, 352
Alt 350	Colburn 329, 351	Gillaspie 356	Kerr 355	Murphy 350	Streid 350
Amish church 354	Conrad's Grocery 352	Gingerich 354	King 351	Nauman 350	Studer 351
Anderson 329, 355	Davenport Orchestra 353	Graber 351	Klein 350	Nickel 356	Sumner 356
Bachman 352	Davenport school 353	Green 353	Klopfenstein 354	Niergarth 354	Tanton 350
Bally 350	Davenport school 353	Greider 350	Knapp 350	O'Marah 350	Taylor 353
Banta Brother's Store 352	Deckard 351	Gresham 350	Kramer 351	Onken 350	Thorpe school 353
Belcher 350	deWerff 350	Guard 350	Lancaster 351	Orth 356	Tomb 353, 356
Belsley's Implement Co. 352	Dickinson 353	Habeck 354	Lehman 350	Panola school 353	Tomb School 353
Boutchem 354	Dough See Dough 355	Hall 351	Leman 350	Pinkham 350	Treece 350
Bradle 351, 356	Durdle 329	Harms 351	Lincoln 353	Punke 329	Tweddale 350
Brehm 351	Dyar 352	Harnish 350	Logsdon 329	Radford 353, 354	Veolecker 352
Briggs 350	Evans 354	Heck 350	Lyons 351	Renner 356	Voorhees 354
Brindell's Harness Shop 352	Farni 354	Henderson 350	Mackinaw Dells 354	Rients 350	Wettstein 351
Brodth 356	Farniville 354	Herron 352	Mackinaw River 354	Rocke 350	White 350
Brown's Barber Shop 352	Finley 350, 354	Hess 351	Marquis 351	Rohman 350	Widmer 350
Burton 356	Frerichs 350	Hodel 350	McCloud 356	Roth school 353	Wilson 350
Cari 354	Fyke 351, 355	Howell 350	McLaughlin 350	Ruestmann 350	Yordy 351
Carlson 354	Gamble 350	Hughes 353	McNamara 350	Schirer 350	Zimmerman 350,355
CCC Camp 350	Garber 352	Hurd 350	Miller 351	Schmidt 350	Zook 350
	Gibbs 350	Jennings 353	Minor Bros. 354	Sharp 350	
		Jones 350	Morit 350	Siebens 354	
		Jury 350	Moser 350	Slabtown 354	
		Keidel 350		Smith 350	

**EDUCATIONAL REELS FOR SCHOOLS**

The moving picture is coming to assume a real place in school life, and teachers are beginning to realize the value of visual education, and machines are being put in many of the large schools. The reels used are educational in character, a large number of such reels being available now. The number is constantly on the increase, so that the available number of subjects covered by reels is growing rapidly. Practically all the larger gatherings of teachers have machines on exhibition, and teachers are advised to see them in actual operation. *1920-21 School Bulletin*, March, p. 16

**PROGRAMS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2017**

**OCTOBER 12 - Eureka Houses** by Carol Anderson - 7 p.m., The Gathering Place at Maple Lawn. Refreshments: Barbara and Leland Zimmerman

**NOVEMBER 9 - WWII German POW Camps in Washington and Eureka** by Mary Kerr, 7 p.m., Eureka Apostolic Christian Community Room, 610 W. Cruger.

**NOVEMBER 24 - Friday.** The Research Room will hold an *Open House* in conjunction to the Eureka Holiday Stroll. Stop by for some refreshments and to see the changes that have been made in our facilities.

**DECEMBER 14 - Annual Christmas Dinner**, 6 p.m. (NOTE CHANGE OF TIME), The Gathering Place at Maple Lawn. The dinner will be catered by **Dough See Dough** of Eureka. The cost of the dinner will be announced later. The program will include a Storyteller and a gift exchange. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, purchase and wrap a gift with a value of \$5. **Be sure that it is something their either a man or woman will want.** If you have questions, please call Karen Fyke at (309) 360-6772.



**Woodford County  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Membership Application**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apt./Suite \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type**

Individual \$20  Family (under one roof) \$30

Individual, Life \$200  Family, Life \$300  **Total dues submitted: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Please send this form and your check to the Woodford County Historical Society, 112 North Main Street, Eureka, IL 61530. Attention: Membership

**Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_ (Donations to the WCHS are tax deductible.)



# Woodford County HISTORICAL SOCIETY

112 North Main Street  
Eureka, IL 61530



Woodford County Championship Basketball Team 1931. Bottom L to R: Delbert McCloud, Francis Brodt, Ralph Burton, Harold Orth, Chester Renner. Top row : Frank Nickel, Jr., Manager; Frank Sumner, Jay Tomb, Robert Tomb, Clyde Bradle, Virgil McCloud, Coach Gillaspie.