

Story of Columbus 3: pp. 401-600. 3

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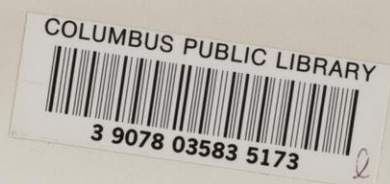
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STORY
OF
COLUMBUS

3

PP 401-600

Fred A. Stare



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The third company Columbia Fire Company, was formed December 10th with the following officers and members. G. Bresee, Forman; J. Jackson and R. Cunningham, Assistants; C. E. Fowler, Secretary; T. F. Sweeney, Treasurer. The other members were Charles Mohring, E. J. Davis, C. Randall, E. Kendall, J. Kendall, H. Annis, C. Cooper, D. McLarty, D. Griffiths, S. B. Kendall, L. Zick, and J. Richards.

On Nov. 13th L. J. Sawyer was elected chief engineer of the Fire Department, but did not accept and qualify, so Asst. Chief J. Cagney was active chief.

Extinguishers

It should here be stated that the word "extinguisher", which could be confusing, could have been Babcock's name for their "Hand Pumper" which consisted of two parallel bars of polished wood about 6 ft. long, or long enough for 3 or 4 men on each side to take hold with an up and down motion not unlike the old time "Hand Cars" which were operated by four "Section hands" or track workers, on the railroad, somewhat like the picture shown here, of a pumper of about that period.

But judging from a comment in the Fire Dept. Minute book which appears later herein, the Babcock Extinguishers were actually Chemical Extinguishers of considerable capacity, mounted on wheels, but apparently not always efficient. We regret that no picture of a Chemical Engine of 75 or 80 years ago can be found.

It should be said that some of those now antiquated Hand Pumpers could throw a very respectable stream of water with considerable force, when the suction hose was short, and the discharging hose was not too long, and when there were plenty of by-standers to spell the pumpers when or before they ran out of "wind", and when there was an ample supply of water.

Three Fires

The records show that in the next year after the organization of the three fire companies in Columbus, there were three fires of enough importance to be mentioned. March 9th, 1878 the City Caloboose, March 27th, 1878 J. J. Sutton's dwelling and barn, on Lewis street at corner of Prairie, a somewhat memorable fire in the annals of Columbus, which together with the relentless determination of Mr. Sutton and successful conclusion of his efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice (see installment 166 and 167) used up more printers ink in Wisconsin newspapers, than anything that ever happened hereabouts. The third fire in 1878 was the home of J. Kuhl, Sept. 1878.

From the minute book of Columbus Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. "On Tuesday night, March 9th, 1878 shortly before midnight, a fire broke out in the Lock up building on Water street which wholly destroyed that structure and the adjoining one owned by Mr. P. Sargeant. The Chemical Engines proved to be of little, or no, avail in this instance, and the fire was checked through the exertions of the H and L Co. and Citizens Generally. The origin of the fire is unknown, Samuel Harding, Secy."

Minutes also say, "On Wednesday, March 27th, 1878, at 3:30 a. m. a fire broke out in the barn of J. J. Sutton situated on the corner of Lewis and Prairie Sts. The H & L truck arrived promptly but the flames had already communicated to the house, and the utmost efforts of the company to save the property were unavailing. The

origin of the fire is believed to be the work of an incendiary and a reward of \$500.00 is offered for the apprehension of the guilty party or parties." Samuel Harding, Secy."

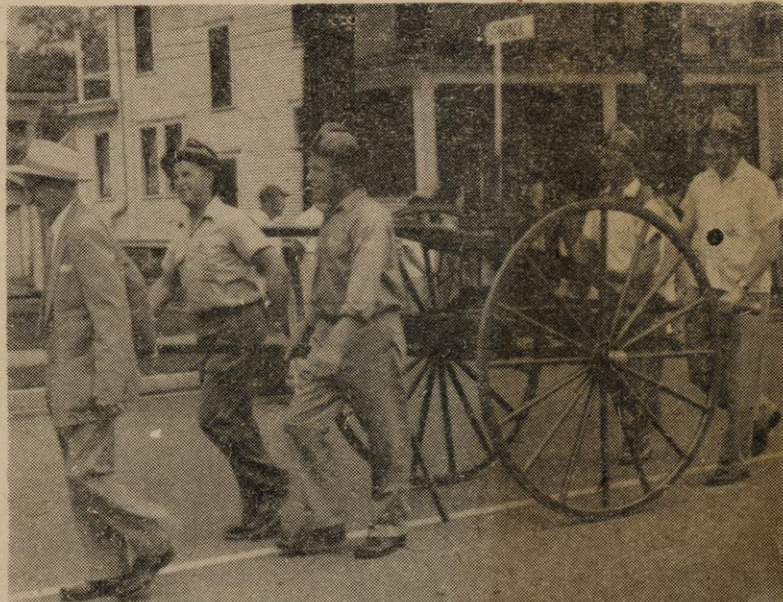
A Well In Prospect

But to return to our subject of Fire protection in the early days. Without specific research in the interval, between 1877 and 1884, and making a few guesses which may or may not be correct, we find that there was considerable interest in taking steps to secure a more adequate water supply, and even some thinking about a Municipal well and city water under pressure.

The Democrat of Feb. 25th, 1884 carries a news item that "Mr. Hugh Hall, having agreed to drill for an artesian well to the depth of 100 feet, provided the sum of \$150.00 was pledged for the work.

A subscription paper was circulated among our business people last week and the full amount pledged. The well is to be at the intersection of James and Ludington streets.

Nothing further is mentioned until the issue of May 9th. When we read "Columbus has two artesian wells and is now trying for a third. A



big flow of water was struck in J. J. Sutton's well on his lot between his new house and barn last Saturday, throwing a stream nearly six feet above the surface of the ground and assuring an abundant supply of water."

The First Artesian

The above item roused our curiosity and search was made to find out the owner of the first artesian well and the name of the driller. We found the story on the back page of the Democrat of Oct. 26th, 1883, a full half column under the heading

HURRAH. A BOOM FOR COLUMBUS.
AN ARTESIAN WELL FLOWING TWO BARRELS
A MINUTE, STRUCK ON THE PREMISES OF
MR. C. THIESE.

"Considerable excitement was manifested in this city last Monday morning when it was announced that a flowing well had been struck on the grounds of Mr. C. Thiese, near the Danville Bridge and soon quite a crowd had congregated at the scene of operations. The report was found to be true in every particular, the water bubbling up from a 5 inch pipe, and filling it to its utmost capacity.

The vein was struck at a depth of only 60 feet and the water is soft and of the best quality.

Mr. Thiese had a 30 ft. well near the house but the water not being of the best, about five weeks ago he engaged Mr. J. H. Eckoff, of Hampden to drill another and see if he could not strike better water.

Installment No. 269

August 30, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

The work was prosecuted with some difficulty as quicksand interfered with the labor, but Mr. Eckoff persevered." We skip over considerable detail about the ten different and various stratas of sand, clay, gravel and rock through which the drilling passed, but quote the concluding paragraph as follows.

"Already there is talk of sinking other wells in various parts of the city and we have no doubt trials will be made in the near future.

The fact has been demonstrated that they can be obtained, and in our judgment it would be a good scheme for the city to sink a well in the center of the square at the intersection of James and Ludington Sts., which if successful would be a safeguard against fires on the four blocks contiguous to it, besides furnishing a supply of water for other purposes. We hope that it will be tried.

The next item found was in the Democrat of Nov. 2, 1883 which said "The artesian well on Mr. C. Thiese's premises is still in full blast, and is daily visited by scores of curious ones. Mr. Thiese has sent some of the water to Prof. Bode, of Milwaukee, to have it analyzed to ascertain if it contains medicinal qualities as many think. So general indeed is this opinion that many of our citizens repair these daily for a supply for drinking purposes.

Mr. Thiese has added fixtures and is already engaged in excavating for a small trout pond to be supplied with water through pipes from the well."

From a subsequent item we learn that the trout pond was about 30 feet in diameter and 3 ft. deep in the center, and that he had already stocked it with "quite a supply" of trout of different sizes and would procure more.

Mr. Thiese received a good report from Prof. Bode with a detailed analysis of the gallon of water, which we will not give in detail, but suffice it to say the concluding paragraph was.

"The water is free from organic matter and sulphate of lime; very clear and of good taste.

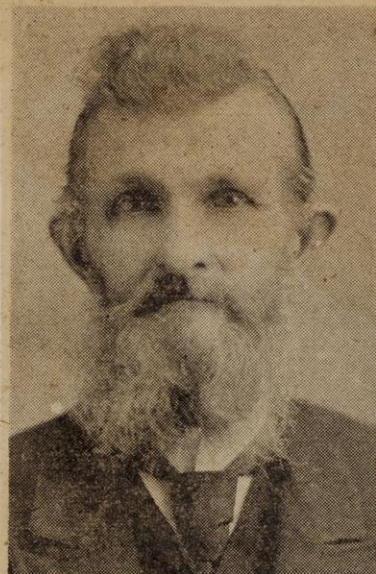
It is slightly alkaline, and in this and all other respects, equal to the best of the Waukesha waters. The good and beneficial effects ascribed to those, will without doubt follow the use of this water." The paper goes on to say

"Mr. Thiese has expended a considerable sum in fitting up the well, and hereafter will charge 10c per gallon for all water taken away in pails, bottles or barrels, but will permit all who desire to drink on the premises to do so free.

We (Mr. H. G. James, the Editor) would say

that we have examined a copy of the analysis of the celebrated Bethesda Springs at Waukesha, and comparison shows that the water in Mr. Thiese's well is fully equal to it, in medicinal properties. The day may not be far distant when the fame of Columbus as a health resort will be spread through the land."

Mr. Christ Thiese was a prominent citizens



engaged in the butcher shop business, whose home was on the River Road, and for well over fifty years has been known as the Brill property.

He was a member of Columbus Masonic Lodge, as were many other prominent Germans.

His picture is shown here because of being the proprietor of the first Artesian well drilled here, which was soon

followed by many others, some of which still flow except when the canning factory and city wells are being pumped.

The paper of May 16th, 1884 records a depth of 90 ft. "At the site of the old town pump. (which was no doubt a pump from the cistern mentioned previously).

May 23rd the Democrat says, "The well drillers have reached a depth of 122 ft. on Tuesday evening, and as that is farther than the contract called for, a new contract was made at the same rate and \$120.00 more was raised in a short time.

Water Flows

Wednesday evening a vein was struck which raised the water within a foot and a half of the surface.

May 30th the paper was jubilant as indicated by the following item." It is now fully established that Columbus is situated above a large and vigorous vein of water, which wants only an outlet to raise to the surface. Experiments in three spots have resulted in procuring fine streams of pure living water.

The last trial on the site of the old town pump is most satisfactory. The water rose at intervals as different veins were reached, and on Tuesday last, it rushed to the surface in a large stream and flowed away to the river.

The drilling went on until it had reached a depth of 190 ft. Pipes were inserted and the water rose to three feet above the surface. At this writing the depth is 196 ft. and it is proposed to continue 50 ft. more.

Our city will soon be famous for Artesian wells, and it is not unlikely that this may prove a great auxiliary to its growth: Columbus with her three Artesian wells, and her numerous attractions, may now lay claim to superior advantages as a summer resort."

By June 6th the depth is reported as 212 ft. and the flow had increased perceptibly since the previous week.

By June 13th a depth of 260 ft. was reported, but the flow was reported to be about the same.

It Is Finished

What seems to be a final item appeared in the issue of the Democrat of July 4, 1884. "The contract for the drilling of the Artesian well was completed Tuesday morning, a depth of 293 ft. having been reached.

By putting in a seed bag the water raised four feet above the surface.

It will be piped as soon as possible and it is thought that there will be an abundance of water and that it can be raised to a sufficient height for all ordinary purposes. The drilling machinery has been removed and the corners look bare after having been occupied for so long."

This picture taken by photographer, W. K. Hosken, shows Hugh Hall, in overalls, standing

near the derrick, and Fred Hicks, his helper standing just behind the team of mules, that furnished the motive power. The boy sitting by the derrick was probably the team driver.

The identity of the boy and the six by-standers, is not known, but Hans Kurth says that one of the spectators, next to Hugh Hall, looks very much like his father.

The derrick is supported by four ropes, each of which is fastened to the top of a fence post at each of the four corners.

Three tall poles show up in the background, which must have been telephone poles, as no electric light poles existed here until 1898 when the city light plant was installed.

On this job, near the finish, Mr. Hicks got one thumb tangled up between the drilling rope or cable and the pulley which served the thumb. Fred Hicks was the wather of Frank Hicks, whom some of the older folks will remember.

After the well was finished. Hicks brought suit against Mr. Hall, as a result of an argument over his pay.

The City Takes Over

Aug. 22, 1884. (From Council Proceedings)

"Mr. Mendenhall of Watertown an expert on wells having made some tests reported.

When seed bag is at depth of 180 ft. the water will rise five feet above surface. At a height of 4¼ ft. the water flows 4 gal. per minute. At a height of 2½ ft. the flow is 8 gallons per minute. Temperature of water is 50 degrees F.

When seed bag is placed 245 ft. deep the water rises 6 ft. above surface, and at height of 2 ft., 11 inches the flow is 3½ gals. per minute; he recommends 4 inch piping.

Continued next week

Installment No. 270

September 6, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Council passed a resolution that the water be drawn off in two tubes, one running to the Griswold corner to a drinking fountain; the other to the Sargent corner, where another drinking fountain be placed. And to provide means to drain the waste water, leading the same to the river, down East James street.

Also to purchase sufficient 4" piping to bring about these results. We understand that when the two fountains were placed, one was placed at the Corner Drug corner and the other at Hotel Whitney corner, which is now the Blackhawk Tavern.

Mr. Hall Was The Second

We find that Mr. Hall, who had been engaged in the pump and machinery business, and may have had some experience in well drilling, did not buy a drilling rig until about three months after Mr. Eckoff had successfully completed Mr. Thiesen's well, as shown by an item in the Democrat of January 11th, 1884 which said "Mr. Hugh Hall has recently purchased machinery for drilling wells and will add that branch of business to his pump and machinery department.

Call on him for anything in his line, at J. P. Miller's Feed store."

We have no proof of who drilled J. J. Sutton's well, but knowing that he and Mr. Hall had been life-long friends, the chances are that since Mr. Hall bought his rig in January, and the flowing well of Suttons was brought in early in May, that Mr. Hall was the driller, and that he moved his rig to the site of the old town pump and began work promptly, for the paper of May 16th reported that drilling had reached 90 ft.

While the well project as shown by the numerous items quoted, was not financed with city funds, sometime at a later date the city council apparently took over the completion of the well and made arrangements for a well expert to advise them, as shown in the preceding paragraphs from Council Proceedings.

A subsequent item in the paper stated that when closed except for an outlet through a one inch pipe, the water discharged was 6624 gallons in a 24 hour period, and that it would be much greater flow with a larger opening.

A Reservoir Under Ground

At some later time, possibly not too long after fitting up the two drinking fountains, which consisted of a watering place for horses, another lower down for dogs, on the street side, and a place for human's on the side facing the sidewalks, further action by the Council, which we cannot take the time necessary to find, must have authorized the construction of a reservoir, underground and surrounding the well pipe.

The reason for this assumption is that during the underground street work last (1955) summer

prior to laying the new pavement in the street widening program, when the large new concrete sections of the new "man-holes" were being installed; at a point several feet away from the center, therefore somewhat closer to the Griswold Block (Kroger's) there was disclosed the outside circular brick wall of a well, cistern, or reservoir.

The cistern referred to on the insurance map of 1876 was doubtless demolished when the sewer system was installed about 1908, as the excavation 27 ft. deep at the central point would have shattered the old cistern which was 12½ ft. in diameter, and with no record of depth.

The circular brick wall disclosed last summer

licated an enclosure of perhaps six ft. in diameter, which if 20 ft. deep would have held a reserve supply of about 3500 gallons, plus a substantial in-flow from the well and perhaps the older cistern was still usable and connected.

Enlightening Facts

In an interview with Reese Roberts early in April, 1956, one of the older living past members of Columbus Fire Dept., we have picked up a number of enlightening facts. The first being that according to the minute books of the Germania Fire Company, some of which, while Mr. E. Von Briesen was secretary are written in German, Columbus never had a hand pumper Fire Engine, but Beaver Dam did. The engine or steamer was bought in 1886 from Manchester Locomotive Works, Manchester, New Hampshire. Its boiler held only 13 pails full of water and steam pressure could be reached, from cold water, in a matter of minutes; by lighting the ever ready kindling fire by the first man to reach the station, steam pressure was usually ready for pumping when the scene of the fire was reached.

The engine was so constructed that it could be pulled by men, or by horses.

From the time of the first equipment bought, in October, 1877, the chemical extinguishers and hook and ladder carts were housed in the frame building on Water street which is now the veterinary hospital; but when the steamer was bought in 1886 the Fire Station was moved to the brick building which is now the Bouquet Shop, 125 S. Ludington, as it had to be kept from freezing. The city offices were upstairs in the same building until the city hall was built in 1893.

Location Of Reservoirs

In addition to the Crawfish river at Beaver Dam bridge; the creek on East James street and one that crossed Ludington street near the George Hasey house, 452 So. Ludington street. There were several reservoirs under ground at different parts of town. Reese Roberts can recall the following, corner Ludington and Harrison, James and Ludington, Von Briesen's corner, James and Spring, and Broadway and School street, and no doubt others he cannot recall.

Kurth Brewery always kept the one near them filled with water but the others all got some rain water from roofs, and in dry weather they had to be filled from tank wagons.

Harvey Rowell was the first engineer of the steamer; later Andrew Hirscher officiated and the third longest in point of service was Reese himself.

The City put in the Water System in 1896 with water mains and hydrants on practically all streets, although they have been added to when necessary every since.

With city hydrants as a source of supply, the old steamer could quickly attach its connecting suction hose and reach a fire three or four blocks away.

The picture shown here was taken by Joe Trapp about 1908, two years before the first pavements, brick, were laid. The steamer, drawn by four Columbus Canning Company horses, driven by Dave Williams had returned from a fire at the "Morse Farm" then belonging to the Canning Company. The firemen shown, from left to right are: John Hatzinger, Ed Pietzner, Ed Link, William Killian, Remigus (Nick) Dubrowa, Reese Roberts, Wm. Klatt, Rudy Lueders, Joe Berdoll, Frank Klatt, William (Billy) Breese, Dave Williams, driver.

Continued next week



(Continued from last week)

Subsequent research on another story in the paper of mid-summer of 1885, lead to more information about the well on the four corners.

In the council proceedings published in the issue of August 28th, 1885, we find 'The committee of the City Well made an oral report following which a motion was made by Ald Bruening, and carried, that the Artesian well should be drilled 100 feet deeper at \$2.00 per foot, from the bottom of the present well, and that the money necessary be appropriated out of the license fund.'

A week later the paper reported that Hugh Hall had his drilling machine at work and had drilled 18 ft. the first morning.

Another item reported a settlement by arbitration of the long standing difference between Fred Hicks, a former employee, and Hugh Hall who paid Hicks \$51.75 as the balance to which he was entitled. This goes back to the drilling of the City well a year before.

Issue of October 9 states that Mr. Hall had completed his contract to drill the city well 100 feet deeper, and that no additional flow of water was found in the last 50 ft. If it is thought best to go further, additional money must be provided.

There were at least eight flowing wells in the city as of early October and John Williams was having one drilled.

The paper of October 16, 1885 said "At a depth of 172 feet from the surface a largely increased flow of water was struck at John Williams well, raising the water 13 feet, but the supply of water at the city well was cut off; perhaps it will be all right again when Mr. Williams gets his well piped.

Alfred Gruhn, blacksmith; Frank Bessert, lumber yard; Moses Jones, clerk; A. C. (Dick) Quentmeyer, painter and store; Fred Schurr, carpenter; Gerhard (Butch) Breese, carpenter.

First row: Joe Berdoll, clerk; August Ninne-mann, brewery worker; Otto Stuhelmacher, painter; George Linck, chief, shoe store; William Schall, harnessmaker, John Kumm, carpenter; William Amrein, rural mail carrier.

Firemens Tournaments

Firemen's tournaments were held regularly, each year, at various places, at which there was always a parade, and numerous competitive events, such as Hose Cart Races, Hook and Ladder activity, Drills and other events of skill or speed.

Back in 1889 the Columbus Alert Hose Running Team became State Champions at the State Firemen's Tournament at Milwaukee, June 12th, the time being 34½ seconds.

The Race

Upon inquiry we have learned that the race was over a dirt course of 200 yards, pulling the Hose Cart with 200 ft. of hose on it: starting to run at signal the team ran from a standing start, and at a post about 100 yards from the stopping point the two rear runners stopped, with the coupling end of the hose in their hands, and quickly snubbed the hose around the snubbing post, which started the hose reel spinning off the hose.

The team continued running until the reel was empty, and then the hose coupling in the middle was disconnected, and the nozzle spun on, which ended the run.

Harvey Rowell, a "character" whom the old



The above picture, was taken by Joe Trapp more than fifty years ago and the following are the names of the personel, reading from left to right.

Back row: Charles Miller, brick mason; Frank Cooper, carpenter; Fred Kettlehohn, brewery worker; Emil Brokopp, butcher; Herman (Doc) Freck, blacksmith; Henry Wrede, laundryman; Christ Kettelhohn, brewery worker.

Second row: Will Ninnemann, brewery worker;

timers will remember, who was a well educated man, and a skilled mechanic and gun-smith, invented a ball bearing coupling which was faster than any other coupling on the market. It was this new coupling that gave the Columbus team a big advantage.

Their victory was protested by other teams, and it would require several columns of print to record the publicity in Wisconsin papers.

Continued next week



We reproduce here a picture of this champion team, that hangs on the wall of the Fire House, together with time-yellowed clippings about the event. The picture was taken in the gallery of A. J. Reese, who was one of the members.

We also list herewith the personnell, and their occupations or firms connected with or employed by. It was a fairly good cross section of the community activity at that time, 1889.

The fire men in the back row, dressed in the queer looking mens clothing of the period, were the officers of Alert Hose Company. From the left to right they are E. Rudloff, barber; Charlie Fowler, grocer, secretary; Harvey Rowell, gunsmith and inventor, who was also the author of a book, "The son of a Gun Smith," and a Patent Attorney, manager; W. F. Krueger, clerk in Topps store; A. J. Whitcomb, partner of Charlie Fowler, grocer.

Second row: F. Pyburn, blacksmith; F. Geisel, tailor at Bellacks; H. Sheidler, clerk at W. J. Edwards store; H. S. Fowler, clerk at Fowler & Whitcombs; O. Reese, brother of photographer.

Third row: R. Harrison, harnessmaker; M. Parkinson, with Farnham, Allen & Co.; W. S. Jones, farm machinery (Bill S. the Bass singer); R. S. Rockell, cashier Union Bank; and Captain of team; C. J. Topp, the brother in John Topp and Bro. Co.; Frank Birdsey, grocer.

Front row: Clarence E. Eaton, publisher Columbus Democrat, later nationally famous Lecturer for Christian Science Church Society; Non-die (nuts) Vogel, saloon keeper; W. Anderson, son of O. Anderson, provision store; A. M. (Dick) Bellack, Clothier; A. J. Reese, photographer.

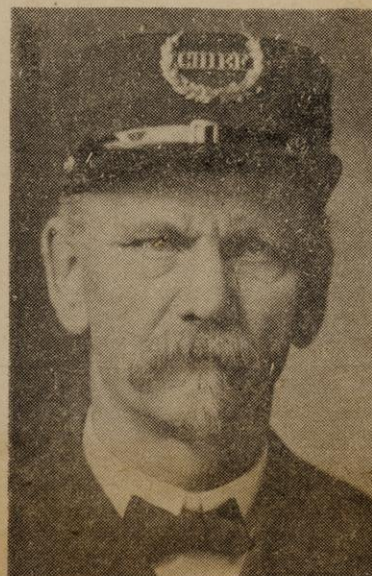
Eaton is holding end of hose, with ball bearing coupling, and Anderson, the other, or male end of hose; Dick Bellack is holding service nozzle in left hand; standing upright between Anderson and Bellack is Brass Firemen's Trumpet, and upright between Vogel and Anderson, is ornamental or parade nozzle.

Two Brooms

The significance of the two crossed brooms in the back ground, is not clear; one suggestion is that the brooms were trophies, signifying "a clean sweep" as the broom on the right seems to have been decorated with three bows of ribbon, and a wide ribbon across the side of the broom.

Another suggestion is that the brooms were "tools" carried to fires for the purpose of fighting grass or leaf fires by beating out the blaze with brooms wet with water; while still another is that firemen used, and still use a broom for a rough cleaning up of floors, sweeping rubbish wet plaster and water from floors so they would dry off sooner.

Henry Lueders



We also show a picture of Fire Chief Henry Lueders (father of Rud-chief in 1890 and for many years thereafter.

It is not our purpose to write a full history of Columbus Fire Department up to the present time, but rather to cover the high spots in the period of early days and up to the turn of the century.

Possibly at some later date,

some one else will be inclined to complete the job.

The End

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



Looking Backward

Research through files of old newspapers, for information on specific subjects that have or will appear in this column, often discloses interesting items on unrelated subjects which temporarily diverts one's attention from the original subject on which information is being sought.

Frequently we have made notes of these diversions for future use.

For example here is one from the Democrat of Jan. 27th, 1911 entitled "Looking Backward," which though not signed in her name, was unquestionably contributed by the late Mrs. Alice Harris, whose maiden name was Alice Bolton (see installment 81). It was in the often used form of a letter to the editor and reads as follows.

Editor of Columbus Democrat.

I see in the obituary of Mrs. H. C. Cooper it speaks of the early days of the City of Columbus.

Permit me to give a little sketch of my own experience. I came in 1846 in the month of April. There was no where to go except under a tree which did.

There was only one house on what is now the York Center Road (Hwy. 73) and that was Samuel St. John's Tavern and my father was 2 miles south of him.

We raised some wheat as soon as we could and we threshed it with a flail on a blanket. The nearest grist mill was at Whitewater and with oxen it took a week to go and return with the flour. They soon built a mill in Columbus and I accompanied my father to town with his oxen and bought my first dress at the Cooper store, that is, I selected it myself.

At the time I made this wonderful trip to the mill, there was the mill, Birdsey's Tavern, Coopers store, the residence of Dr. Axtell, and I think a Mr. Silsbee, and Mr. Cooper, and Mr. H. McCafferty who lived in the little house just across the Brook where the Ingalsbee house is.

There were a few others but I forget who they were. Mr. Coopers store was where the Corner Drug store now is. Those days a man only got 50c a day for ordinary work but for cradling grain one dollar a day.

There were no schools at that time and a young lady, a daughter of Col. Wright of the War of 1812 came west with us and taught the first school in Columbus in the ballroom of Birdsey's Tavern.

She fell down the stairs one day, while in a fainting condition and had brain fever and died a short time after and was the first one buried in the York cemetery on the old Wiseman farm.

At the time Wisconsin was not a state but a territory and there was no county or township. Signed. "A Reader of the Democrat".



MRS. ALICE HARRIS

The brook near the Ingalsbee house referred to by Mrs. Harris, shows on a city map in a County Atlas dated 1873. It began a mile or so from town, near County Trunk K, then called the Columbus and Lodi Road, and crossed Fuller St. just east of the end of Broadway, now called Dickason Blvd. The brook made a sharp turn to the right and crossed Ludington St. at about the intersection of Fuller St., and joined the creek that comes down through the Park, in "Ingalsbee's pasture", not far from School St., or just back of the City lot recently filled in, across School St., from the City store house and garage.

The brook was changed many years ago into a four foot diameter Cement Tile along Fuller St., parallel with George Hasey's property, 452 S. Ludington St. and across Ludington St., about

where Vet's Body shop now is.

The Ingalsbee's property referred to is the large brick house, now a double residence occupied until recently by the Clarke Arnolds at 546, and the Roger Thomas is at 552 South Park Ave., formerly a part of Ludington St. The Frank Long property, 532 South Park Ave. was built on land that was formerly a part of the Ingalsbee property (For Ingalsbee, see installments No. 58 and 107.)

Mrs. Harris' letter referred to the Tavern of Samuel St. John, on the York Center Road, (now known as highway 73). The writer does not know the exact location of the former St. John tavern, but has an idea of its approximate location, gained in conversation with Albert Holsten whose farm is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of the Madison road, highway 151, at the Country Inn Corner.

Albert recalls that he has heard his parents or grandparents say that there was a Tavern about a mile or so east of his place, near the east and west road, at a point where the road in the early days, came from Columbus, and at the old tavern, one road ran east to Watertown, and in the opposite direction, ran west to Sun Prairie and Madison.

If this is correct, the tavern must have been somewhere in section 34, town of Columbus, possibly not far from the Rupnow farm, which would be almost due north a few miles from the Jason Bolton farm in section 22, town of York.

However this is only conjecture and may not be the case.

Mrs. Harris, in her letter to the Editor of the Democrat referred to the obituary of Mrs. H. C. Cooper, so we have done some research and reprint herewith the obituary in question, clipped from Columbus Republican.

"The Grim Reaper Gathers the Ripened Grain"

Two of our early settlers taken away.

Again we are called upon to record the passing of another, from the rapidly thinning ranks of our Columbus pioneers.

Mrs. Horace C. Cooper died on Wednesday aft-

ernoon of this week at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Scott, in Naperville, Ill.

Mrs. Cooper's maiden name was Julia A. Williams and she was born in the town of Le Roy, Genesee County, N. Y. on the 22nd of April, 1825. Three years later her mother died, after which she made her home with an older sister, Mrs. Nancy Thatcher.

This family moved to Ohio, where for a time they resided, and in 1840 they came to Wisconsin, settling on a farm near Aztalan. Here she met and married Horace C. Cooper, who was engaged in the hotel and merchandising business in Lake Mills. In 1850, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper came to Columbus, at which time there were but twenty houses in the village, and here for more than sixty years Mrs. Cooper has made her home.

She is the last of eleven children to cross the divide, and was herself the mother of seven children, five of whom, with eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, survive her.

Mrs. Cooper was a woman of a wonderfully buoyant disposition, and had a cheerful word for everybody, she was the embodiment of kindness, and never allowed an opportunity to do a good turn to pass her door.

The funeral was held from her old home on Ludington St. on Friday afternoon at half-past two, her pastor, Rev. Robert Hopkin officiating.

A large concourse of friends and neighbors followed the remains to their last resting place in Hillside cemetery.

Continued next week



MRS. HORACE C. COOPER

Installment No. 274

October 4, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

The Cooper Family

On the Cooper lot at Hillside Cemetery, beside the stones of Horace C. Cooper and his wife, there is another head stone with the name inscribed thereon, as follows "Corp. Daniel C. Cooper Co. G 23rd Wisconsin Infantry" but without dates of birth or death: We learn from Mrs. Dorothy Brown Webster, a granddaughter of Mrs. Cooper, that Corp. Daniel C. Cooper, a soldier in the Civil War, was a nephew of Horace C. Cooper, Sr.

Mrs. Webster has provided us with a list of the seven children of Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, as follows. Alice, who married C. F. Rogers, Lake City, Minn., and had three daughters; Marietta, who was married to Willard Scott, Jr., Naperville, Ill., one of the early bankers in Columbus; Julia, who was married to Harry C. Williams, Chicago, and had three sons and one daughter; Helen Marie, who was the wife of Col. Harvey M. Brown, Columbus, and mother of Dorothy or "Dollie" and Harry Brown; Horace C., Jr., went to New York, and was married and had one daughter, maiden name of wife Etta not found; William C., Lena, Ill. was married to Elina Steinmetz, and had one daughter; and Charles F. who married Caroline Daniels, Naperville, Ill. and had two daughters.

In installment No. 40-41 we stated that "In 1845 Mr. Cooper went back to New York to marry Miss Julia Williams" which information was supplied by her granddaughter, and presumably is correct.

However in her obituary quoted above, it is stated that "she met and married Mr. Cooper at Aztelan" which does not agree with the previous paragraph, and as to which statement is correct, we cannot state.

Mrs. Cooper frequently related to her grandchildren, her experiences as a pioneer wife in Wisconsin, including the frequent calls made at her door by Indians, who were always polite and agreeable about their requests for food etc. She complied with their requests, treated them nicely and always get along very well with them.

Raises Her Grandchildren

After she was widowed, and when she was 70 years of age she took the four motherless children of her daughter Julia, Mrs. Harry C. Williams of Chicago, to raise, and also the two daughters of her youngest son Charles, when his wife died, thus "mothering" and raising six grandchildren, Harvey, Scott, Etta, and Fred Williams; and Daisy and Alice Cooper.

Another of her granddaughters, lost her life in the tragic burning of the Iroquoise Theater Fire in Chicago in the late nineteen hundreds. The Cooper home in Columbus was the house located at 2238-234 South Ludington st.

Mrs. Harris Kept Scrapbooks

Mrs. Harris had for many years prior to her death followed the habit of keeping "scrap books" well filled with items of interest to her. After her death it was learned that she desired to have the dozen or more scrap books to go to Rev. L. C. Partch.

Mr. Partch loaned them to the writer, and to a limited extent we have made use of some of the obituaries, and other items. But unfortunately, most of the clippings fail to show date or paper from which taken, and are therefore of much less use than if properly dated.

We would like to emphasize right here, how important it is to enter date and name of paper on every clipping; and especially that every photograph should have the name of the subject, and if possible, at least the year it was taken, for some day the time will come that no one is left, who knows the name of saintly looking grandmother, or the beautiful bride, or the sweet little child, unless you put the name and date on back of the picture.

Here is a good illustration of what we mean. It is a newspaper clipping from Mrs. Harris' collection.

How Waterloo Was Named

"An interesting story surrounds the naming of the village of Waterloo. Seven French explorers left Fond du Lac late in the fall of 1834, their objective being the location of a large prairie, which they had been told, lay to the southwest.

In December winter overtook them on the journey and they pitched camp to remain until spring broke, when five of the party continued the journey in search of the prairie, leaving the other two to remain and care for the camp.

Unsuccessful in their quest for the prairie the five explorers returned several weeks later, and after declaring they had "met their Waterloo" the party returned to Fond du Lac.

Before breaking camp, however, they placed a marker on the camp site with the word "Waterloo" and that's how the enterprising Jefferson county village got its name.

It is just possible that the early French explorers missed the prairie when they passed, through Dodge county, for sections in the northwest part of Oak Grove township known as Rolling Prairie, Hyland Hyland Prairie and Clason Prairie, comprise some of the very best land in Wisconsin."

The above is from a clipping in one of the many scrap books of the late Mrs. Alice B. Harris, but practically all of them are undated and do not say from what newspaper it was clipped, but we presume it was from a Waterloo papers.

Here Is Another An Old Will

In one of Mrs. Alice B. Harris' many scrap books, there is an old newspaper clipping, yellowed with age, which gives an account of a self written Will made in Vermont in 1815 by Mrs. Anna Cone, ("great grandmother of the late Mrs. Jos Thompson") when on Sept. 25th, 1815 her will was "proved" in the state of Vermont.

"This Last Will and Testament of Anna Cone was not a large, impressive legal document printed in several colors emblazoned with seals and befuddled with "red tape". It is composed of one sheet of tablet paper, on which was written, in a beautiful hand, the substance of a mother's wishes for disposition of her things after she could no longer use them.

"I give to my eldest son, Massena Cone, (this was Mrs. Thompson's grandfather) the dwelling house in which I now live, and all the land which I own lying on the east side of the road leading to Otter Creek, stated the will, bounded as follows, viz; On the east and south by James Purrington's land; on the west by the aforesaid road; and on the north by Otter Creek, be the same, more or less, reserving to my four daughters the privilege of so much of the house as they at times may want to make use of until they are other wise provided for.

Mrs. Cone divided the farm land between her two boys, the one receiving the house to go with his properly on his side of the road, the other, the barn as his part of the farm equipment.

"To my eldest daughter, I bequeath the property which fell to me from my honorable mother, \$43, now in the hands of the administrator of mother's estate."

"To my second daughter Mary Ann, a warming pan, and side saddle and bridle, which fell to me from my honorable father. (A warming pan was a closed up pan like a sheet iron corn popper, in which hot coals from the fireplace were poured, making it very hot. The purpose of the pan was to slip it into the bed just before retiring and draw it around between the blankets until the bed was warmed by the pan full of coals).

The Will continued "To the third and fourth daughters, Sabra and Ann Sterling Cone, I give all my clothing to be divided between them, and two dollars apiece, to be paid to them by my two sons out of their shares within one year and six months after my decease.

Continued next week

Installment No. 275

October 11, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



All the rest of my household effects, I divide equally between my four daughters."

It may seem strange in this day and age, when two dollars is chicken feed to many young people, and old clothes is for the rummage sale, or the scrap bag.

It was the custom a century ago, and in some families it may still be, for the older son, if any, to inherit the home place and the younger sons to get less, on the theory that the oldest had worked longer and was therefore entitled to a larger portion.

And as for the daughters, it was expected that they would marry, and take very little with them aside from their "hope chests."

Massena Cone Goes West

The clipping goes on to say "Grandfather Massena Cone, who received the house side of the farm according to the will, must have early conceived the pioneering idea, for he came west, spending several years at Kenosha.

Chicago

When he had reached the southern end of Lake Michigan, where our great midwest metropolis, Chicago now stands, a very small settlement was starting up, and the realty firm there offered Mr. Cone a building in which to open up a business, also a lot adjacent, where he might build a house if he would cast his lot in that village.

But there was nothing about the place to appeal to him. The land was low, swampy and boggy, the atmosphere damp and foggy, so he refused with scant deliberation, the offer of free land which would later have brought him thousands of dollars a foot, and went a little farther north to Kenosha, (then called Southport).

Portland

A few years later, however, he brought his family out to the then growing village of Portland and started a blacksmith shop in the little log building still standing near the John Jordan farmstead.

Here he shod both horses and oxen, the latter of less understanding minds, the more difficult of the two to work on.

But Mr. Cone arranged for this difficulty. He prepared stanchions into which the oxen were driven, their heads held tightly as those of cows in modern barns of today.

Then, by the use of a windlass and a strong smoothed off wooden frame, the smithy would draw the oxen up off their feet, supported under their bulky bodies, and slip each hoof into a noose, holding them to keep them from kicking.

Each hoof took two shoes, because of the ox's divided hoof. The shoes were thin in back, with two calks on each, one at the back and one at the toe. Shoes were nailed on, same as horse's shoes.

It was Massena Cone's son Sterling, who was Mrs. Thompson's father. He practiced law, studied with and later went into partnership with Atty. S. J. Conklin here, after the transportation of business from Portland here at railroad building time."

This is the end of the clipping, and from the last paragraph, we would judge the clipping was from a Waterloo paper.

For more about Mrs. Harris see installment 8.

The Briese Family

One of our older residents, Fred Briese, celebrated his 90th birthday, at his home, 341 West Prairie St. Sunday, Sept. 16th.

While he was not one of our earliest citizens he is one of that small and select group of oldsters who have passed their 90th mile stone.

The date of his coming from Germany to the United States, with his parents, was 1875 when he was nine years old, but an uncle and his grandparents preceded their arrival by a few years, so following our custom we will write about first things first.

Fred says the grandparents, with five younger and unmarried children had gone to America three or four years earlier, and perhaps because of friends or relatives having located here earlier, they had settled in Columbus.

The grandparents, he said, lived in an old house on the corner of North Water and Whitney Streets, which was later moved elsewhere to make room to build the present house, long known as the Fred Pieper house.

They never lived on a farm here, but always found work in the village; and it was to this home that their married son Fredrick sr. and his family came directly from New York.

Peter Brieese

The grandfathers name was Peter Brieese, according to the inscriptions on the grave stone and his wife's given name was Wilhelmine, last name not shown. Peter was born Jan. 27th, 1812 and died July 1st, 1896: Wilhelmine was born Jan. 29th, 1817 and died in 1893.

After his wife's death he made his home with one of his children and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Striech.

Surviving him, according to his obituary in the Democrat of July 8th, 1896, were three sons and five daughters, names not mentioned, except the daughter mentioned. The obituary stated that he came to the U.S. in 1872.

August Brieese

After contacting a granddaughter, Mrs. Linda Klatt Benninger, and her mother, Mrs. Wm. Klatt, a daughter of August Brieese, who live together in Beaver Dam, we have considerable information about August Brieese and his family, as well as an excellent group picture of them, taken by photographer C. P. Ziegler in 1910.

Carl August Brieese was born in Clausdorf, West Prussia, Germany, on Jan. 12th, 1838, and was apprenticed to a wagon maker, which became his trade.

He was married Sept. 11th, 1863 at Damlang, Germany; his wife was Albertina Goltz, who was born Jan. 2nd, 1840, at Damlang, and their first three children were born in Germany.

They decided to come to America, which they did in 1869, settling in Columbus, where friends or relatives had previously located, and gave glowing reports of this land of freedom, in their letters to relatives and friends back home.

It will be seen that August came to the U.S.A. three years before his father, thus making him the first of this family to come here.

"They lived in the one and one half story brick house, which still stands on the same location 204 E. Whitney St., now the home of Mrs. Wilma J. Will; and in this house their eight other children were born, making a total of eleven born to this couple.

Their Children

Their children, year of birth and a few words about each, follows.

Herman, born in Germany, 1864, died in 1886: Matilda, who became Mrs. L. Marugg, born in Germany in 1865, died in Appleton in 1955, had one daughter Annette;

Otto, was born in Germany in 1867, and died in 1911, name of wife not mentioned, left children as follows: Evelyn, Mrs. Walling born 1896, home Baraboo; Floyd, 1898, Madison; Harold, 1902, Appleton; Helen, Mrs. Nicholas, 1909, Appleton.

Gerhart, born Columbus, 1869, died in 1937 had two children, Lester, N. Y. City and Lorene, Fort Atkinson; Eliza, Mrs. Wm. Klatt, born Columbus 1871, has two children, Linda, Mrs. Benninger born 1893, and Herbert Carl August all living in Beaver Dam.

Dora Brieese, born 1873 Columbus, died in infancy; Oscar, born Columbus 1875, died 1948 at Wausau; Clara, Mrs. Peterman, born Columbus, 1876, died 1925, at Appleton, had five children, Florence, Mrs. Boehm, Racine; Raymond, Phoenix, Ariz; Adeline, Mrs. Webb, Chippewa Falls; Ralph, Appleton; Clarence, Neenah.

Installment No. 276

October 18, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Hattie Mrs. Thomas, born Columbus, 1878, died 1925, no children; Willie, born Columbus, 1881, single, Portage; and Bertha, Mrs. Schlie, born Columbus, 1883, no children, Milton Jct., Wis.

No attempt has been made to trace succeeding generations of the above mentioned as none of them live in our area now, except Mrs. Wm. Klatt and her daughter, who live in Beaver Dam, and who have furnished most of the information concerning the August Briese family.

Mrs. Klatt is spry for her age 85, and her daughter Linda, Mrs. Benninger is a nurse by profession and is frequently engaged to care for elderly patients here.

Gerhart, better known at the time of his activity as "Butch", was a carpenter. He and his brother "Billie" were both members of the fire department over fifty years ago, and each appeared in the pictures published in this column recently in the story of "Early Fire Protection" as did also Mr. Wm. Klatt.

Mrs. Klatt told the writer a few interesting

things concerning her father's earlier years here.

Having learned the trade of wagon maker in Germany, he found work in the shop of John Prien, (installments 159-160) but there were times when work was so scarce, he had to work at whatever he could find to do.

Among other things he worked on the construction of the railroad around Lodi and Baraboo, shortly after his arrival in this country. His family lived here, and in order to support them, he would walk from Columbus to Lodi, 37 miles, each Sunday from mid-afternoon to early Monday morning, and walk back Saturday night and Sunday morning with the money he had earned during the week. This he did for many weeks, until the contractor ran out of money and was unable to continue.

In 1893 he built a two story frame house, into which he moved his family when it was ready for occupancy. The house still stands at 222 N. Water street and is presently the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Biel.

Continued next week

The picture was taken right after completion, and before any trees or shrubbery had been planted. Note the wooden sidewalks.

Standing on the porch, left to right are Willie, Bertha, Mrs. Schlie, and the mother, Mrs. Briese.

Carl August died here in 1922, having conducted his own wagon shop for a great many years, before retiring.

His wife, Albertine Golz Briese, sold the home after her husband's death and lived with her daughter, Eliza, Mrs. Wm. Klatt, in Calamus, until her death in 1940.



Installment No. 277

October 25, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



We show here, a recent picture of Mrs. Klatt, daughter Linda and son Herbert, all of Beaver Dam.

Before her marriage to Wm. Klatt, Eliza Briese worked for several years in the family of Dr. Robert Earll. When she announced her coming marriage, the Earlls tried to get her to stay on the job and offered living quarters to the couple and any children they might have. But her husband objected and wanted to establish a home of their own.

It was then, that Eliza found a worthy successor, Mary Schmied, wife of Frank Schmied. The Schmieds lived with the Earll family from 1906 to 1914. (see installment No. 50).

We are fortunate, also in being able to show a group picture of Mr. and Mrs. Carl August Briese and nine of their eleven children.

Group picture taken by C. P. Ziegler in 1910.

Left to right seated are: Bertha, Mrs. Schlie; Mr. Briese; Mrs. Briese; Matilda, Mrs. Marugg. Standing: William; Hattie, Mrs. Thomas; Gerhart; Clara, Mrs. Peterman; Oscar; Eliza, Mrs. Klatt; Otto.

Peter's Other Children

From Mrs. Klatt, we have learned the names of Peter Briese's five daughters, all of whom came from Germany at the same time Carl August came. They were





Caroline, Mrs. Meyer who died at Oshkosh. Fredricka, Mrs. Bucholtz, died in Chicago; Augusta, who became Mrs. John Kalkhorst of Columbus, who died here; Hannah, Mrs. Al Carleson, died in Chicago; Wilhelmine, Mrs. Peter Streich, died in Chicago.

There was also a third son Carl, a carpenter who went to Iowa at an early date, about whom we have no further information.

Frederick Briese Sr.

Fred's father, Frederick Sr. according to his obituary in the Democrat of Feb. 5th, 1909, was born in Deutsche Keron, West Prussia, Germany on May 15th, 1831, and in 1954 he was married to Henrietta Hertzke who was born in Kesburg, Germany Sept. 11th 1934.

In 1864, at age 33, he joined, or was put into, the German Navy, in which he served until 1871 when he retired with rank of sergeant. Military service was mandatory in Germany.

This account says that he and his family came to America in 1875, settling here, because of his

father Peter and several brothers and sisters were already located here.

Frederick died in Jan. 1909, and his wife Henrietta died at the home of a daughter in Denver, Colorado August 16th, 1923. Both are buried on the family lot at Hillside cemetery.

Fred says he can well remember some of the details: This family was one of a group of several families from their own and a few neighboring villages, making a fairly large bunch of emigrants, including the Yohn's and other people they knew.

Fred remembers that they were all shoved into a box car for the trip to Berlin. From Berlin they were sent to Bremmerhoffen from which port they sailed for New York on a steamship named the Rhine.

Frederick Sr. and his family found a house soon after their arrival here. It was the house at 606 South Birdsey St. where they lived several years, when they then moved to a farm at Englewood, in Fountain Prairie.

Installment No. 277

November 1, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

The Family

The family consisted of Augusta, who died here in 1882 age 23; Bertha, who was married to Homer C. Nashold of Fountain Prairie, Will, who became a farmer and cattle buyer, was married to Miss Hattie Hasey, daughter of Alfred Hasey; Frederick jr. or Fred, who married Miss Martha Remus in 1900; Anna, who became Mrs. F. A. Wippermann; Emma, who was the wife of Wm. Nashold jr., of Fountain Prairie; Louise, Mrs. Heidbrak; and Clara, Mrs. Wefel.

All of the children were born in Germany excepting Clara, who was born here.

One daughter Emma, Mrs. Wm. Nashold, jr. and one granddaughter Helen, daughter of Anna, Mrs. Wippermann, are buried at Hillside on the lot of Fredrick, sr., and his wife Henrietta.

Fred Brieese

Fred lived with the family, at home, until he was about 20, although he often worked out for others, even while still living at home. After leaving home he worked out as a hired hand for various farmers, including Nic Feelyater Henry Neimeyer. He also worked with a threshing crew, several seasons, usually hand feeding the bundles into the seperator.

He soon became known as a good horseman, and became a dealer in horses and cattle. He later became an auctioneer, which calling he followed for many years. In the latters years of his active life, up until only a few years ago, he was a buyer and seller of baled hay and straw.

He was at one time interested in politics and in 1916 was elected sheriff of Columbia County, serving two years, the limit, as sheriffs could not succeed themselves, during which time he, of course, resided in the sheriffs quarters, a very comfortable apartment in a portion of the jail.

Fred and Martha never had children, much to their regret.

Before he moved to Portage, the couple lived in the former Seffens, Stevens, Gunther house, 332 West Prairie St. now the home of the John Millers.

Returning to Columbus, from the Sheriffs two year term, they moved into the Walsh-Turner house, 333 Main St., and bought the lot on which they built their present home, 341 West Prairie, into which they moved when it was ready for occupancy, and in which they still live.

Both being farm born and farm raised, the couple never lived on a farm after their marriage.

Fred was always and still is full of wit and humor, and has a seemingly inexhaustable supply of stories he loves to tell; he called the writer back from the door as he was leaving, after a recent short visit, to tell another story he happened to think of. While he is bedfast, for locomotion is difficult, he is in good spirits and enjoys having callers.

Two Sisters Living

Two of Fred's sisters, Anna, Mrs. F. A. Wip-

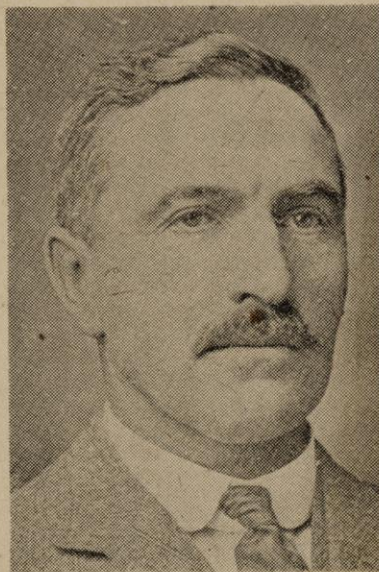
permann formerly of Naco, Florida, and Clara, Mrs. Wefel formerly of Denver, came back to live in Columbus a few years ago.

They reside at 510 W. Prairie, where Mrs. Wefel keeps house and cares for her sister, Mrs. Wippermann, who is an invalid.

The only picture of Fred Brieese that is available is the above, taken in 1916 when he was a candidate for sheriff to which office he was elected.

William L. Brieese

William L. Brieese was born in West Prussia, Germany Sept. 29, 1864, and was therefore two years older than Fred. He



Fred Brieese

lived with his parents until he was about thirteen, when began working for Adam Feelyater, as a farm boy, living in the Feelyater family home. Mrs. Feelyater took a motherly interest in the young German boy, and he always gave her much credit for his later success in life, because of her practical assistance and inspiration. He worked for the Feelyaters for sixteen years; a few of the last years, he worked a part of the land on shares, thus getting a small start above his regular wages.

In 1894 he was married to Miss Hattie Hasey, daughter of Alfred Hasey, and in 1895 he bought a small farm of 42 acres known as the Hathaway Farm located on the stone quarry road, now within the city limits of Columbus. This proved to be his first real start in acquiring real estate and some working capital, for it was only through hard work and close economy that he was able to pay for this land. It was during this time that he began to buy and ship livestock.

He returned to the Feelyater land for two more years, also farming his little farm, and shortly after he moved to town, where he resided until his death a few years ago.

In 1903 Mr. Brieese bought the Alfred Hasey farm of 200 acres, in town of York, Dane County, which was the birth place of his wife. Their home in Columbus was corner of Ludington and School St. They had one son Alfred William Brieese who died many years ago. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brieese passed away in comparatively recent years.

Continued next week

(Continued from last week)
**Columbus Masonic Lodge Celebrates
 Its One Hundredth Anniversary**

The Master of Columbus Lodge No. 75, F & A Masons, has requested the writer to do a bit of independent research on the early days of Columbus as related to Lodges and Societies of similar nature, and to tell something of the men, among the early pioneers, who organized them; to which request he is glad to respond.

A portion of our response comes from a copy of the earliest history of Columbia county of which we know, published in 1880 and written by or under the supervision of Mr. C. W. Butterfield, and published by Western Historical Co. of Chicago, from which we quote frequently.

The common tendency of civilized people to form themselves into societies for mutual advancement developed itself at a very early day in Columbus.

Only a year or so after the settlement began, when there were less than a dozen log cabins here, children were gathered together in one room, to be taught some schooling, and in 1846 a school house approximately 26x52 feet in size was built at a cost of \$400.00, which was also used as town hall; for church services, political meetings, or anything of public interest. A portion of the building is the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Pomerooy, 426 So. Ludington st.

I. O. O. F.

The first Lodge of what was usually called a "Secret Society" was founded here in 1849 by the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. It was called Columbus Lodge No. 40 organized the 12th of September, 1849. The charter members were Daniel F. Newcomb, Nurseryman and Merchant; Andrew Higley, Benj. F. Hart, Blacksmith; Frank A. Fowler, Harnessmaker; J. J. Guppy, Lawyer; Harrison S. Haskell, Lawyer and Real Estate agent; and Jerome B. Fargo.

It prospered and grew in number of members until 1872 when it suspended operations.

The Good Templers

As early as 1850, an organization known as "Sons of Temperance" was formed in Columbus. As the name would imply, membership was limited to males.

Prominent members included Chester W. Dean, merchant, W. W. Drake, wagon maker; John H. Valentine, William McCracken, R. W. Chadbourn, banker; Samuel McLarty, tailor; Harvey Loomis, merchant; A. D. Williams, Milford Loomis, carpenter; and D. F. Newcomb, nurseryman and storekeeper but there were others, names not specified.

The meetings were held in Farnhams hall above Swarthouts Drug Store, where the Buckhorn Tavern now is.

The wives and other ladies of the village had helped to assemble quite a library, and on one occasion were allowed to vote on an important question: This being a violation of the Societies Rules, the Grand Lodge of the Sons of Temperance threatened to revoke the charter and confiscate the property belonging to the liberal-minded cold-water champions of Columbus.

However in order that the library and other property might be saved, the Lodge voted to surrender its charter, thus seceding, and going over to the Independent Order of Good Templers in a body. Of which order, there was a lodge but the year of its founding has not been ascertained.

In the newspapers of 1855, the oldest Columbus papers in existence, the Lodge Notice stated that the Sons of Temperance met every Tuesday evening, and was signed by Recording Secy. Frank M. Black, who in the following year helped to organize the Masonic Lodge, and became its first Master.

Columbus Lodge No. 75, Masons

The local Masonic Lodge, according to Butterfields History was organized June 12th, 1856 with the following charter members whose occupation is shown if known: F. McCauley Black, Carpenter; Edward Jussen, Brewer; Silas Axtell, merchant; Peter Wentz, S. C. Higley, A. P. Birdsey, Tavern and Farmer; J. S. Manning, Miller; Benjamine Campbell, Butcher; J. A. Elliott, merchant; B. F. Hart, Blacksmith; J. J. Smith, Tailor; E. E. Chapin, Lawyer; B. Chase, Robert Mills, J. A. Valentine.

The three first principal officers were F. M. Black, Worshipful Master, Edward Jussen, Senior, Warden, Silas Axtell, Junior, Warden. We assume that the officers, and perhaps all the charter members had been Masons elsewhere.

We quote from the newspaper, one of the early Lodge Notices as follows:

"Columbus Lodge No. 75, of F and A Masons hold their meetings in Odd Fellows' Hall on Monday evening, at or preceeding, each full moon. Members of the Fraternity are invited to visit. F. M. Black W.M., L. H. Drake, Secy.

Early Past Masters

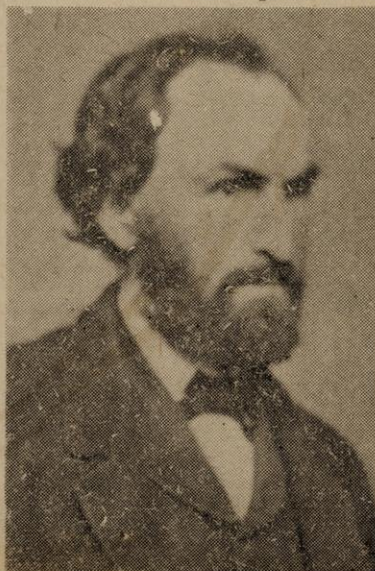
Frank Black was Master for three consecutive years, 1856-7-8. Second Master was Frank Huggins, Druggist, 1859. Third was Silas Axtell, Merchant, who served 1860-61-1866-1870 and 1871. Fourth, Amassa G. Cook, Lawyer, 1862-63 and 65. Fifth, Andrew O. Sexton, Grain Dealer, 1864-66-72-76 and 1878. Sixth, E. E. Chapin, Lawyer, 1867-1873, Seventh, M. G. St John, 1869-72 and 74. Eighth, Rufus S. Dodge, 1875 Ninth, J. E. Churchill, 1879. Tenth, Mic Adams who served in 1880-84-85-87-90-91-97-98-99 or ten years.

A few years ago when Mr. Coggins was Master of the Lodge, an effort was made to secure photographs of all past Masters, have copies made to one uniform size, and have them hung on the walls of the Temple, in which project the help of the writer was sought. Pictures were finally obtained of all but three of the first ten.

Brief biographies of the first 10 Masters are given here, some less complete than others because information found was so limited.

1st — F. M. Black — 1856-7-8

Frank McCauley Black came from some Eastern State at some time prior to 1855, the year of



Frank M. Black

our earlier newspaper, as we find his name in a Lodge Notice of the Sons of Temperance, dated Feb. 20, 1855. He was a carpenter by trade and unmarried when he came. He was secretary of the Republican Town Committee, and a Republican Convention in Oct. 1855; Clerk of the Township in April 1856, and in the Presidential Campaign of 1856 worked hard to swing votes to the New Party's nominee, General John C. Fremont, who lost to the Democratic candidate, James Buchanan.

Continued next week

(Continued from last week)

He was married here to a sister of John Swarthout, first druggist in Columbus, became father of two sons and one daughter.

Later the family moved to Chicago where both sons became reporters on the Chicago Times. The daughter Laura, never married. Mrs. Black died in Chicago and was brought here for burial, as were later, the ashes of Laura.

Mr. Black was a member of the Building Committee in charge of our first brick schoolhouse, built in 1858 by contractor John Haydon, at a cost of \$5,000.00. (For more about Mr. Black read installments 98-99—Story of Columbus).

2nd — Frank Huggins — 1859

Frank Huggins, wife and daughter, came to Columbus from the East in 1856, first mentioned in local paper of June 17th, 1856, as the owner of a new (our second) Drug Store, on lower James street.

The Huggins home was the house at 353 South Ludington St. long known as the Otto Baker home. He was appointed Postmaster by President Abraham Lincoln, before which he had moved his stock of drugs to a small building that once stood about where the south half of Kalk Drug Co. now is.

He later moved to one of A. G. Cook's building on James st., probably, 140 West James. In 1869 he relinquished the postmaster-ship to John Swarthout.

Mr. Huggins was an active member of the Presbyterian Church, was a village trustee in 1870 and became president of the village board serving until 1874, when Columbus obtained a charter to incorporate under a city form of government, made possible, (against considerable opposition from the township), by Mr. Huggins, Mr. E. E. Chapin, lawyer, and R. W. Chadbourn, banker.

The family left Columbus in the mid-seventies or later, after selling the Drug Store to two Welshmen, Thomas Morris and Tommie Evans. Research through newspapers of the period may disclose time and place, when we reach that point. No photographs of this family are known to exist, (see installment 99).

3rd — Silas Axtell

Silas Axtell, a younger brother of Dr. James Axtell, first physician to locate in Columbus, was born in 1829, and came to Columbus late in 1855 (according to an item in the paper of Nov. 22, 1855), to open a new store with new goods and new prices, in D. E. Bassett's Block, with a partner, Mr. Uriah Davis.

Mr. Silas Axtell was active in church, civic and fraternal affairs and was master of the Masonic Lodge in 1860-61-66-70 and 71.

His second partner in the mercantile field was Mr. Joseph E. Churchill but the year of this change has not been ascertained. At some later date he sold out here and removed to the growing town of Augusta, Wis. and from there he went to California where he lived until he moved to Oak Park, Ill. where he died in 1911, his body being brought to Columbus for burial.

None of the notes we have found, mentioned the name of his wife, but the funeral notice stated that the remains were accompanied by his wife and his daughter, Mrs. Lelia Sackett. No photograph of Mr. Axtell is available.

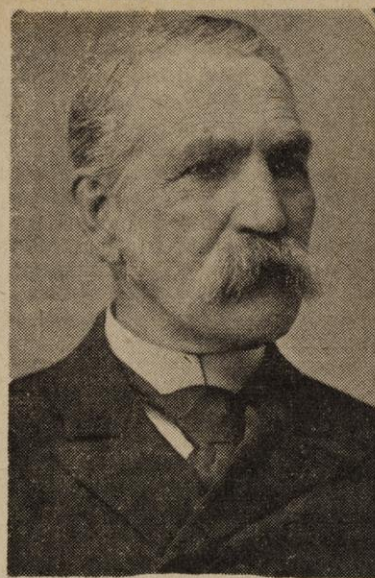
4th — Amasa G. Cook

Mr. A. G. Cook was a native of Chenango County, N. Y. born in 1823 completed his formal education in an Academy in Norwalk, N. Y. in 1844. He did some teaching; read law in Honesdale, Pa., came to Columbus in 1850 after having been admitted to the Bar in Sept. 1849. He was a Democrat in politics was district attorney in 1851-2; Member County Board of Supervisors 1861-1870, Alderman from 3rd ward three different times; Was Postmaster in 1856.

He was a large land holder of both farm and city property including several business blocks

of which three or four are still intact. In 1866 he built a beautiful Manson type home on a corner of his farm at the top of Cooks hill on W. James st. The home is now the property of the American Legion. He went back to N. Y. in 1853 to claim a bride, Miss Sarah Jane Rockwell of Otsego County, N. Y.

From this union three sons and two daughters



A. G. Cook

came into their home. In 1861 his brother-in-law, John R. Wheeler started the Union Bank as a private citizen, but a years later, 1862 it was incorporated as a State Bank for the purpose of issuing currency of which \$100,000 was issued. At this time Mr. A. G. Cook became cashier of the bank, and his signature was on all currency and later re-

tired.

In 1884 upon the death of another brother-in-law, L. R. Rockwell who had acquired the bank from his brother-in-law, John R. Wheeler, the bank was re-organized and the name changed to F. & M. Union Bank, Mr. Cook became President of the Bank. He became master of this Lodge in 1862, serving in 65 and 65. His nephew, Ruggles S. Rockwell, who was cashier of the bank from 1884 to 1896, became the 13th man to become master of the Lodge, serving in 1889-92-93 and 94. Mr. Cook would be classed as one of the leading and progressive citizens of Columbus during the years of his activity.

5th — Andrew O. Sexton

Andrew Sexton is another past master of whom no photograph could be found. He was born in a small New York village called Central, in 1822. Came to Wisconsin in 1846 settled on a farm a few miles south of Columbus, where he lived and farmed as a bachelor until 1851 when he returned to New York to marry Miss Annette Farnham, who returned with him to the farm. Whether this farm was in Columbus, Dodge or Dane counties is not known.

Four years later the couple moved to Columbus where Mr. Sexton became engaged in the grain and produce business in which he was active until 1901.

He held numerous offices of trust and responsibility including two terms as mayor in the late eighteen hundreds.

Perhaps he was a mason before he came to Columbus, but it not, he must have become a member of No. 75 shortly after its organization, for he is not mentioned in the published list of charter members. Be that as it may Mr. Sexton became master of the Lodge in 1864 and served in 68-72-76 and 78.

He is said to have been the local authority on the intricacies of the ceremonials of both the Blue Lodge and the Knights Templars. The Sexton's last home was the house at 443 W. Prairie St. now the home of Bob Eilert.

He died in 1908, survived by his widow and one brother, for they never had children. So far as we know.

The obituary says nothing about a Masonic Funeral the burial was by Rev. Robert Hopkin, of Olivet Congregational church.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

6th—Emmons E. Chapin, Master 1867-1873

Mr. E. E. Chapin, lawyer, was one of the charter members of the Masonic Lodge in Columbus, and became the sixth master of it in 1867 and served again in 1873.



Emmons E. Chapin

Blanchard, a Wisconsin pioneer of 1836 had later located in Watertown as proprietor of the Blanchard Mills, was the reason they located nearby.

The exact time Mr. Chapin moved to Columbus is not of record, but supposed to be in the spring of 1856 for he was here some time prior to the organization of Columbus Lodge No. 75 as he was one of the charter members and was, no doubt, a Mason before coming here.

He was a Democrat in politics and for many years was a member of the Democratic State Central Committee, participating in every State and National Convention from 1857 to 1879.

He was one of the village trustees for two years 1872-3, and when it was determined to try for a city charter, Mr. Chapin was selected by the trustees to draft the charter and procure the necessary legislation for its enactment, all of which was accomplished and Columbus became a City Feb. 26, 1874.

He had attracted the interest of the Governor, who in 1874 appointed Mr. Chapin a member of the State Board of Charities and Reform of which he became vice president, and was instrumental in inaugurating a system of prison management and discipline more advanced than most states at that time.

Mr. Chapin became a member of the Board of Education here and was elected president, and helped organize the Free High School under a law passed in 1895.

He remained president of the Board several years, and in 1878 presented the diplomas to the first graduating class of seven, who were the

He was born July 14th, 1829 at Venice, Cayuga County, N. Y. received an academic education and studied Law in N. Y. state. He was married in 1853 to Miss Emily Blanchard at Aurelius, N. Y. and in 1854 came to Wisconsin locating in Oconomowoc. Perhaps the fact that his wife's brother, Col. H. W.

Misses Laura Bassett, Mary R. Cook, Julia M. Davies, Carrie Genung, Nellie Ida Loomis, Elouise M. Stephens and Genevieve A. Stephens.

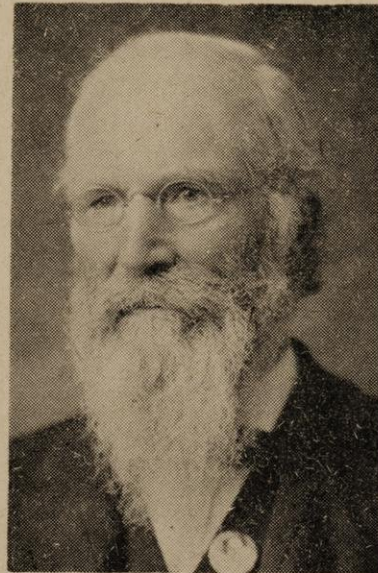
Also he became such a well known man in Masonic Circles that in 1875 he became deputy grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. Some 10 or 12 years later after moving to Milwaukee he became grand master of the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin.

His place of abode the first twelve years he lived in Columbus is not known to the writer, but the records show that in 1867 he bought the lots at the S.W. corner of Main and Prairie Sts., upon which he built a very nice home, which at present and for many years has been the home of Edwin Quentmeyer and before that, of Samuel Hasey.

In July, 1882 Mr. Chapin sold his home to Samuel Hasey, which probably marks the approximate time that he moved to Milwaukee, where he became one of the better known and prominent Lawyers of the area. He died in Milwaukee in May, 1905. (For more details about Mr. Chapin and family, see installment No. 84-85 in the Story of Columbus).

7th — M. G. St. John

Not much information can be found about the background of M. G. St. John, usually called Griff except that his father Samuel St. John—as



M. G. St. John

well as a brother and family and a sister and four sons all came to Columbus from Janesville in 1842, thus being among the first ten or twelve settlers to locate here.

The St. Johns, were friends or acquaintances of Major Dickason who built the first cabin here in 1839.

There were St. Johns who located in the vicinity of what later became Danville,

another had an early tavern a few miles south of Columbus on the then road to York Center, another St. Johns family located some four or five miles west on what is now County Road K.

One St. John became a partner of Johill Jackson in the wagon and carriage shop where the A.B.C. Cleaners now are, and it is believed that this one was M. G. St. John, although we have no positive knowledge that this is so.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare

(Continued from last week)

M. G. St. John was a younger brother of Imogene St. John who became Mrs. Harvey McCafferty, the author of a small brochure of her early recollections here, as a girl about 15.

At any rate Mr. M. G. St. John in time moved to town, from one of the above mentioned areas, for in 1876-7 and 8, he was an alderman from that ward.

Since his name does not appear among the charter members of Columbus Lodge No. 75. F. & A. Masons, listed in Butterfields history, it is likely that he did not join until a few years later, but the Lodge records would, of course, show when.

We find also that in 1875 when Columbus Temple No. 19 of the Temple of Honor was organized, Mr. St. John was a charter member, of whom there were 23.

We have found nothing to indicate his church affiliation, if any, but his sister, Mrs. Harvey McCafferty was a member of the local Presbyterian church.

He apparently was not particularly interested in politics, or to appear in the "lime-light" of his day, but he did hold various township officers for very brief periods as a study of the Clerks records of the town of Columbus disclose: In April, 1861 he was elected Assessor; In April, 1863 he became Treasurer; At the annual town meeting in April, 1864 he was one of four men appointed by the Supervisors, as a Committee to set up and conduct "Marketing Fairs" for the sale of livestock, produce, tools, implements etc. on the second Friday of Feb. - March - April - May - June - Sept. - Oct. and Nov. each year; and in April, 1865 he was elected Justice of the Peace.

The fact that he was elected Master of the Masonic Lodge on three different occasions, and served, even briefly in the positions of trust previously mentioned is proof that he was a highly regarded substantial citizen.

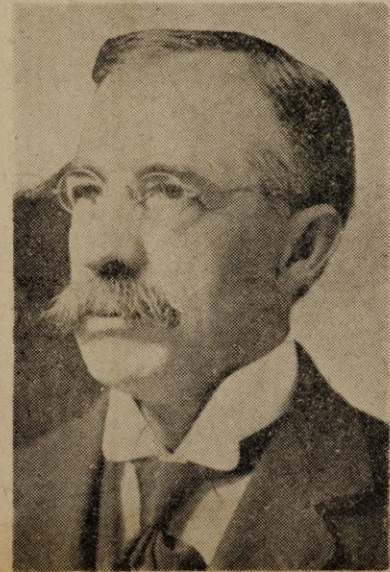
His service as Master was during the years of 1869-72 and 74.

8th—Rufus S. Dodge

Rufus S. Dodge was not among the very early pioneers, as were his older brothers Gilbert and

Harvey, and did not come to Columbus until during the Civil War.

He was born in Parma, N. Y. Oct. 2nd, 1840, a son of a Baptist Minister Harvey B. Dodge, and his mother was a direct descendant of Roger Williams, once a citizen of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from which he was banished for his liberal ideas, and sent to the wilderness. He emerged in what is now Rhode Island where he



Rufus S. Dodge

founded the settlement of Providence so named, in gratitude to God for his safe deliverance, and proceeded to expound his beliefs to a few of the faithful who had followed him; he is the recognized founder of the Baptist faith.

Rufus got his schooling mostly at Plattsburg, N. Y. and in 1861 enlisted in the 16th N. Y. Voluntary Infantry, taking part in 16 battles in which his regiment participated, and was promoted to Sergeant for gallant conduct at Cramp-ton's Gap in Sept. 1862. He was honorably discharged at the end of his enlistment, late in 1863 and shortly thereafter came to Columbus to learn merchandising in the store of his brothers, and it was then that he became a Mason.

In 1872 he was married to Miss Fannie Cotton of Beaver Dam, and moved to Sparta in 1877 to take charge of a branch store Dodge Brothers had opened there in 1872.

Rufus Dodge, after becoming a resident of Sparta affiliated with the Masonic Lodge there, and also with the Sparta Commandery Knights Templar, the John W. Linn post of the G.A.R. and the Knights of Pythias. He died in Sparta in 1908.

9th—Joseph E. Churchill

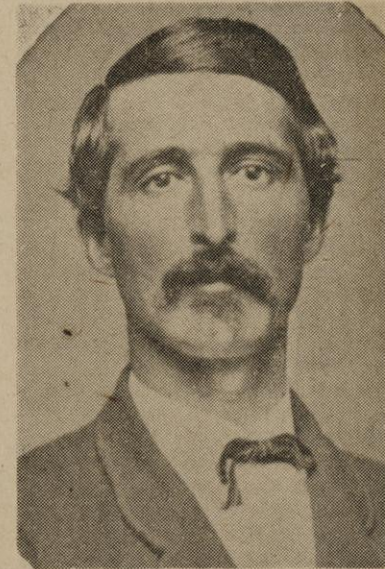
Joseph E. Churchill came to Columbus in 1854 at the age of 25, and continued to reside here until his death in 1910.

He was born in Champlain, N. Y. as were: also both of his parents, James and Eliza Churchill.

It is not known what his occupation may have been when he first came here, but it may have

been clerk in a store, for it is known that in the late fifties or early sixties he became a partner of Silas Axtell in a general store known as Axtell and Churchill.

However in 1877 the records show that the firm of Churchill and Sexton built the grain elevator now owned and operated by the M & S Feed Co., 256 Church St. The



Joseph E. Churchill

building is supposed to have replaced an earlier warehouse of less substantial construction that formerly stood on the same sites.

The Churchill home, a frame house with a siding of wide boards running up and down, stood where the Frank Roob residence, 525 West Prairie St. now is.

It is not known definitely, but it is quite likely that the two men became business partners about 1874.

The Masonic Lodge records will show the date Mr. Churchill joined the lodge and whether he was admitted by transfer or as an entered apprentice. At any rate he became the ninth man to become Master of Columbus Lodge serving the year of 1879. He should not be confused with Dr. E. Churchill a well known dentist whose home was on Ludington Street.

Mr. Churchill died in May 1910. The funeral services at the home and the cemetery were conducted by Rev. Robert Hopkin of Olivet Congregational Church. The obituary does not mention anything about a Masonic service.

Continued next week

Installment No. 282

December 6, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

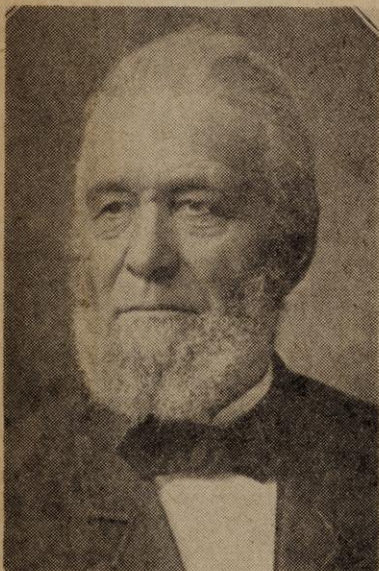
By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

10th—Mic Adams

Mic Adams as he was familiarly known to all, came to Wisconsin with his parents in 1840 when he was nine years old. He was born Oct. 28, 1831 at Western, a small place Oneida County, N. Y. His father's name was George and his mother was Mary Keller. His grandfather also named



Mic Adams

George, was killed in the War of 1812. His great grandfathers, on both sides, were soldiers who lost their lives in the Revolutionary War.

The family first settled at Oakland, Jefferson County, but in 1845 they removed to Elba Township, Dodge County where the father 'took up' land along the Crawfish River just below where St. Col-

umbkill Catholic Church below Danville now is. Here they built a dam and started a badly needed sawmill. (See installments 37-38-39, Story of Columbus.)

This combination of clearing the land of heavy timber, building and operating the sawmill and doing what farming they could, as fast as land could be cleared kept the father and four sons busy from "Can to can't", that is from as early as the could see, until it became dusk and they could no longer see.

In the years 1850-1-2 Mic Adams when 19 became a raftsmen on the Wisconsin River being among the first 'river rats' to run the rafts of logs from as far up as Jenny Bull Falls, now Merrill, Wis. to the Mississippi river. His adventures and narrow escapes would fill a volume.

In 1852 Mic was married to Miss Lovina Harger of Elba living on a farm and working in the mill and store of his father. In 1874 he moved to Columbus where he opened a real estate and insurance office. The couple had no children but adopted a daughter in early childhood.

Mic was always interested in politics and public affairs. He served as constable a year, supervisor three years, and town clerk of Elba for 17 years before moving to Columbus, as well as being a member of the state assembly 2nd district Dodge county in 1872.

He then moved to Columbus and was elected to the Assembly from 2nd district of Columbus in 1873.

He was Police Justice for the city 2 years, Supervisor of the first ward 18 years, six of which he was chairman of the Board.

President of the School Board of 12 years, Secy. of Library Association for 20 years, and was either Secy. or Warden or Master of the Masonic Lodge for 18 years, he was Master ten years in the interval 1880 to 1899; 1880-84-85-87-88-1890-91-97-98 and 99 and was high Priest of Columbus Chapter Royal Arch Masons for 12 years.

He died on Christmas eve 1903 a few months after his 72nd birth day.

There you have the background, indicating the Calibre of the ten men who served as Master of Columbus Lodge No. 75, in the period between 1856 and 1899. Pictures of seven of them hang on the walls of the Temple along with those of many more who have served since.

This paper is not intended to be a history of the lodge for the period reviewed, but only as a sidelight of the type of men, sturdy pioneers from the East, seeking to better their individual situations by taking the advice of Horace Greely, an outstanding newspaper man of the period who is supposed to have advised young men to "Go West".

A Serious Affray

The building of a Railroad always brought a group of hard working, hard drinking and hard fighting men into the neighborhood.

Here is a clipping from the Horicon Argus, reprinted in the local Columbus Journal of April 21st, 1857.

There may have been a regular "Donnybrook Fair" in the construction camp, but the fact that the article was embellished with poetry (of a sort) makes it appear that it was something that was going the rounds of weekly papers and could have been largely a figment of some one's imagination.

However, "Brick" Pomeroy, the editor of the Horicon Argus about that time, was a much quoted writer, and could well have been the writer of the piece.

At any rate, for what it may be worth here is the article.

Columbus Journal — April 21, 1857

Serious Affray

Last Tuesday afternoon a serious affray took place between six or eight Americans, and a party of twenty or thirty Irishmen, some two miles out of town on the track. Clubs were trump, and for nearly half an hour, axes, stones, billet of woods and fists were freely used.

Heads were laid open by the dozen, arms broken, noses bit off, eyes gauged out, and one Irishman had his wind pipe torn open nearly two inches!

A bloodier set of beings we never saw, though but three of the Yankees were badly hurt.

The other party were completely used up, and many of them were maimed for life.

Some one or two, thinking discession the better part of valor, suddenly remembering that a man didn't relish sport much when his wife was a viddy or his bairns fatherless, left for home in a hurry.

"And he pytched into hym,
And hym pytched into he:
Ye way they fyfts it was a syn,
And horribil to see.

Ye stones dyd flye yn every way,
Ye clubs dyd swyft descend,
And those who 'round there dared to stay
Got knocked—end over end!

Some there were, now in ye fyght,
Hurt so they couldn't moan;
And others too, with all their myght,
Cut slick—and cut for home!

Horicon Argus

And here is an advertisement in the Journal of Jan. 19th, 1858 which is self-explanatory.

Journal of Jan. 19, 1858
\$250.00 Reward

Broke jail at Portage city on the evening of Jan. 14, 1858, Alfred Underhill confined for murder

He is 6 ft. high, and straight, slim, down cast look, looks pale from nine months confinement, age about 35, has a double barreled shot gun

London twist, he weighs about 170 pounds.

A reward of \$200.00 will be paid for the apprehension of the above.

The other is James Harrington about six feet high, straight built sandy complexion and flaxen, blue eyes not bleached as much as the other, about 58 years old and weighs about 190 pounds.

\$50.00 is offered for said Harrington.

The above described men stole a pair of brown or black ponies with leather halters, and a pair of grey woolen blankets trimmed with red and lined with cotton.

The men were seen riding the ponies last at Pardeeville. Said ponies weigh about 800 pounds each; long tails one is lame in the off fore foot from scratches; the inside corks on the hind feet turn lengthwise of the shoes; the ponies belong to the sheriff of Columbia county. The above reward will be paid for their confinement in jail.

Address E. F. Lewis, Sheriff Columbia County, Madison, Jan. 15th, 1858. Papers throughout the state will please copy.

Continued next week

Installment No. 283

December 13, 1956

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare

(Continued from last week)

Columbus Had A Brass Band 100 Years Ago

In research in the bound volumes of early Columbus Journal-Republican, from 1855 to 1863 inclusive, on loan to the writer by the Wisconsin Historical Society, we made brief notes of many items, for possible use later.

One such item was about a meeting called for the purpose of trying to organize a Brass Band in Columbus.

The meeting was called by a group of interested citizens, only two of whom are known to have been musically inclined, but all were keenly interested in any movement that would be for the good of the community.

It should be remembered that Columbus was under township government, although it was always referred to as a village, but it did not adopt a village form of government until May, 1864.

An item in the Journal of Aug. 7th, 1856 is quoted here verbatim:

Band Meeting

At a meeting held at the school house on Monday evening, last, by the citizens of Columbus in favor of having a band of music organized in this place, D. L. Thayer was called to the chair, and Milo J. Waterhouse chosen secretary.

After listening to the remarks of several gentlemen, it was moved and carried that H. Loomis; F. M. Black; and James McConnell be appointed a committee to wait upon the citizens of Columbus and ascertain what amount they were willing to subscribe to aid in the enterprise.

D. L. Thayer, Chairman

M. J. Waterhouse, Secy."

Who Were These Men?

Let us know a bit about each of the five men mentioned in the article.

D. L. Thayer, was a young man, junior partner and son-in-law of Mr. D. Mallo, senior partner in the firm of Mallo & Thayer, publishers of the newspaper.

Mr. Thayer, the junior member was unfortunate enough to have lost both of his hands. A few years before they came here, in the pre-mature explosion of a cannon in a Fourth of July celebration at Madison. He had learned to write with a pen or pencil held in his teeth, and made the best of his hard luck.

A few years after both families had moved to Columbus. Mr. Thayer was appointed to the job of door keeper in the Assembly at Madison, leaving Columbus.

Milo J. Waterhouse, (see installment 192) a young farmer from near Leeds Center, married to Julia Day Topliff, moved to Columbus some time prior to 1856, to keep house for Mr. Alfred Topliff. They became parents of Alfred James and Mary Juliette Waterhouse; the latter was married to Mr. A. S. Waldo, and became the mother of Katiebel, Alfred, Alberta, Donald and Waldo Doris.

Milo Waterhouse enlisted in Company K, 3rd Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and was killed at the battle of Antietam, filling a grave of an unknown soldier whose name with many others is carved on the Soldiers Monument on Dickason Blvd.

Frank M. Black, (see installment 98) was a carpenter who came here at an early date and almost immediately began to take an active part in local affairs. He helped to organize the Sons of Temperance of which he became Recording Secretary. He was active in the forming of Columbus Lodge F & A, Masons and was the first Master of the Lodge. He was chairman of the Republican Committee, and worked hard but unsuccessfully for General John C. Fremont for President. He was town clerk in town of Columbus.

He married a sister of John, Nelson and Jacob Swarthout and became father of two sons both of whom became newspaper men in Chicago.



Harvey Loomis (see installment 43) was one of the sons of Warren Loomis, a builder and house mover who came here from New York State in 1845.

Harvey's home was the house at 460 West James St.; he had a general store on Ludington St. about where Weber Hardware store is, but not the same building. He was the father of Guy and

Paul and Miss Nellie Loomis, City Librarian for many years.

James McConnell, was a merchant tailor, a contemporary of tailors Jacob Smith, Samuel McLarty and Nelson Bissel. He was a fifer in the Civil War, and headed a fife and drum corps here later.

The Band

No further items about the band were found for about nine weeks, but apparently there had been some response from the public, and some band instruments ordered and even a teacher had been contacted.

The issue of Oct. 16th had the following to say about the band.

"The instruments of the band have at length arrived, and we learn the teacher, who is to instruct the members in the use of them, will be here next Monday, and we expect, are long to hear them "Discourting Sweet Music" to the Citizens of the Community.

The young men who compose the band are not of the richer class and the expenses of procuring the instruments, and paying the teacher besides other little nicknacks fall rather heavily on them, and we hope the citizens, for whose gratification the band was got up, will lend a helping hand to encourage and sustain them in their landable undertakings."

On November 13, 1856 the paper said "If any of our citizens have had any doubts of our having a band of music formed in this village they can banish them, for the Columbus Sax-Horn band is a fixed fact. The band is composed of the following gentlemen — B. F. Hart (general store); F. Drake (probably a son or grandson of Col. Jeremiah Drake); Milford Loomis (Carpenter); J. McConnell (Tailor); H. Loomis (General Store); R. F. Tompkins, C. H. Dibble, J. E. Churchill (Grain Buyer) and Dennis Birdsey.

They have employed Thos. W. Williams of Whitewater as teacher and have been practicing about 3 weeks.

We attended one of their meetings the other evening and was greatly surprised at the proficiency they have made.

They can now play several tunes equal to most any band and when they commenced not one of them knew the scale. This, we think, is a sufficient guarantee that they will in a short time equal any band in the state.

Besides the energy and perseverance which its members displayed, one great ultimatum of their success is the excellence of their teacher. Mr. Williams is one of the, if not the best Music teachers in the West.

The members of this band have been to great expense in getting their instruments, employing a teacher; room rent, etc. and we hope our citizens will subscribe liberally towards defraying their expenses.

It certainly is an advantage and a credit to our village to have an excellent band of music and there is nothing to prevent it if our citizens will only now step forward and help pay the expenses.

November 27, 1856 — The Columbus Band made their first appearance last Tuesday evening at Coopers Hall. We believe it was the universal opinion of everyone present that they played exceedingly well. We believe that there cannot be found another company of men with but four weeks practice that can play equal to the Columbus Band.

March 31, 1857 — If you had been a reader of the local paper in 1857, you would have seen this item.

"We have neglected for some time to notice the improvements which are being made in our Band. The boys are no longer to be sneezed at as players. There are much older Bands than ours who cannot play near as well.

Last Saturday, for the first time they gave a serenade in the open air and all who heard them were delighted with their music.

Success to the Columbus Band say we, this is all we can do at present; perhaps others can give more than mere wishes for their welfare.

April 7, 1857 — Editor suggested a worthy project to the Ladies of the Village. A Banner for the Band.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



The Band Welcomes First Passenger Cars To Columbus May 26, 1857

Yesterday, a little before eleven o'clock, an excursion train from Milwaukee arrived at the depot in this place, where they were received by the Columbus Band, and greeted with the time of "Hail Columbus", and three hearty cheers, and then led the way to the four corners.

The cars were decked with banners, and made quite a fine appearance, especially here in Columbus where such a sight had never before been seen. The company consisted of about 100 persons, both ladies and gentlemen. From the cars, they went to the "Exchange Hotel" which had been prepared by its excellent landlord, Mr. H. A. Whitney, for their reception, where they partook of a sumptuous dinner, and at about 2 o'clock they again took the cars, and well satisfied with their trip, the place, and their accommodations, started back to Milwaukee.

Location Of First Depot

For those of you who don't know, the original Ry. depot was off Waterloo street. The hole where the turn table used to be is in Frank Koblitz pasture and clearly visible from Mrs. Schulz plant beds at the end of Williams street.

There were several grain and produce warehouses—Lumber and Coal Yards, and a store

grouped about. At a later date the Ry. crossed Waterloo St. about at its intersection with School St., crossed the marsh about or near Charles Anderson's home, and the depot and yards were in Ingalsbee's pasture, back of the row of houses from Reuben Fredrick's home down to the Deep Rock Oil Station.

The right of way, was graded clear to the Wisconsin River, and the name changed to Milwaukee-Watertown & Baraboo Valley Ry., but no rails were ever laid across the Madison Road.

Mr. Ingalsbee's house was the brick duplex where Clark Arnold lived until recently, 546 Park Ave.

In 1864 the road was diverted a mile or so east of the Crawfish River and a new brick depot, freight and passenger building built. It still stands but now belongs to Caldwell Lumber Co.

July 7, 1857

Next mention of the Band was in an account of the 4th of July Celebration. "The Columbus Sax Horn Band headed the procession, and discoursed sweet music on the picnic grounds."

What Is Or Was A Sax Horn?

Our curiosity was aroused, and while this is

not a dissertation on the history of musical instruments, we feel that since it is a story about Brass Bands in Columbus, beginning one hundred years ago, a little about brass instruments prior to then is worth some space and definitely appropo. Considerable research discloses that brass horns of various sizes and shapes had been in use for a long time, but up until the early eighteen hundreds they were without valves and the various tones were produced by manipulation of the lips in the mouthpiece of the instrument, just as military bugles, and the large circular English hunting horns, were and still are blown.

In the "Story of Musical Instruments" by H. W. Schwartz on page 34 we find "Piston Valves (for horns) were invented in 1815, and Rotary valves in 1827". And on the same page "With the invention by Sax in 1842 of the family of Saxhorns, the brass choir for the first time was given a bass voice — in the brass bass tuba."

On page 180 of the same book we find "The saxhorn was the invention of Antoine Sax in 1842. There were seven instruments in the family, from the high soprano in E flat to a contrabass in B flat. These instruments are still (1938) used in some of the European brass bands, but they are now rare in America.

About the time of the Civil War, Military bands in America were almost invariably of the

"tuba" type, that is, regardless of size, the bell extending backward over the shoulder and directing the sound to the rear.

Useful in marching bands which played at the head of a moving column of men, this type sometimes called the "backfiring" variety was displaced later in favor of the bell-front instruments, better suited for concert work.

Band Of Civil War Days

We show here a picture of Instruments of a Band of Civil War days, taken from the above mentioned book.

The instruments shown above were all made with the Rotary Valve, a four way cock, used for purity of intonation and evenness of tone throughout the compass. (Websters Dictionary).

Webster says of saxhorns "A family of brass wind instruments with valves, invented about 1840 by Adolphe (also called Antoine) Sax, a Belgian, and much used by military bands and in orchestras.

They are made in about seven sizes, named for their compass, sopranos, Altos (Althorn) tenors and bass."

(Continued from last week)



"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Adolphe Sax, and his father C. J. Sax, Belguims, were instrument makers in Paris; these two men contributed many improvements in existing reed and other wind instruments, too numerous to mention, except for one more.

Fresh from the triumphs of investing and patenting the family of saxhorns in 1840, Adolphe saw the great need of combining the reed mouth-piece of the clarinet and other reed instruments with the tonal quality of a brass instrument, and after some experimenting the saxophone, emerged which today is substantially the same as when he invented it about 115 years ago.

Saxophones are frequently found in brass bands, but are perhaps more of ten used in dance bands or orchestras.

Rotary Valves

The invention of this type of valve is credited, in Schwartz's book to Blumel, an oboe player from Silesia, in 1827. The valve consisted of a rotor which revolved on an axle, and was quicker in action than the piston valve. Rotary valves are still widely used in some European countries, but in America they are rarely seen except on genuine French horns which are fingered with the left hand. Some so-called French horns

with which we are familiar, are modifications or adaptations, and are called "Mellophones", have piston valves and are fingered with the right hand.

The writer who played in a village band as early as 1891 well remembers a small E flat cornet which had rotary valves played by the director of a small village band, Prof. Hannaman. The last time we saw rotary valves, except French horns, was in 1931, in Switzerland, where they were seen in both an orchestra, and in military marching bands, in Zurich, Swiz., and in Imsbruch, Austria.

Our First Band

We have not attempted to trace the continuity of the original Columbus and, but presume that it was more or less a continuing organization at least for several years with new members coming in, and some dropping out; or possible breaking up completely, with no band for a while.

However we have noted the presence of "The Columbus Band" in many fourth of July Celebrations, political or patriotic meetings etc., reported in the papers from time to time, up as far as 1963. After which there is a 5 year gap in newspaper files.

Population

The population of the country, and township, at the time the band was organized 100 years ago and a few years earlier is shown here because of its direct relation to the small size of the band.

1847 Census

Columbus Precinct covering about 3 present

Townships

Males 514, Females 435, Total 949
County 2028 M, 1763 F, Total 3791

1850 Census

Township
341 M, 331 F, 672 Total
Village
164 M, 124 F, 288 Total
County
5212 M, 4353 F, 9565 Total

1855 Census

Township and Village
865 M, 755 F, 1620 Total
of which 434 Foreign born
County
9460 M, 8500 F, 17960 Total
of which 5427 Foreign born

While the editor of the Journal frequently stated that Columbus had a population of about 2000, he probably was using township figures and "stretched" them a lot.

Be that as it may, to have a band of even nine persons, out of a village population of about 300, a hundred years ago was a real accomplishment.

Watertown's First Band

It is to be regretted that no picture of our first band is available. However through the courtesy of Richard and Edwin Quentmeyer, we are privileged to show a rare picture showing men's clothing and hair styles of over 100 years ago; and the type of horns used in bands. A set of

seven of these instruments, the horns, were ordered from Germany by William C. Quentmeyer, father of the late A. C. Quentmeyer and grandfather of Rich, Ed, and William Quentmeyer.

Wm. Quentmeyer is third from the right in the back row, standing; he of the closely trimmed black beard.

Rich does not know the year in which his grandfather came to America, but we surmise that it was about the time 1850-54 when the tide of German immigration really got into full swing.

Carl Schurz, a great German leader, came to Watertown in 1854, in which year 16,000 Germans came to this state, and so many of them settled in and around Watertown that in 1855 it became the second largest city in the state with a population of around 10,000.

Other names appearing in pencil on the picture are Kabett, Polman, Kurtz, Schoeneman, Sproesser, Nowak, which together with Mr. Quentmeyer are perhaps the horn players.

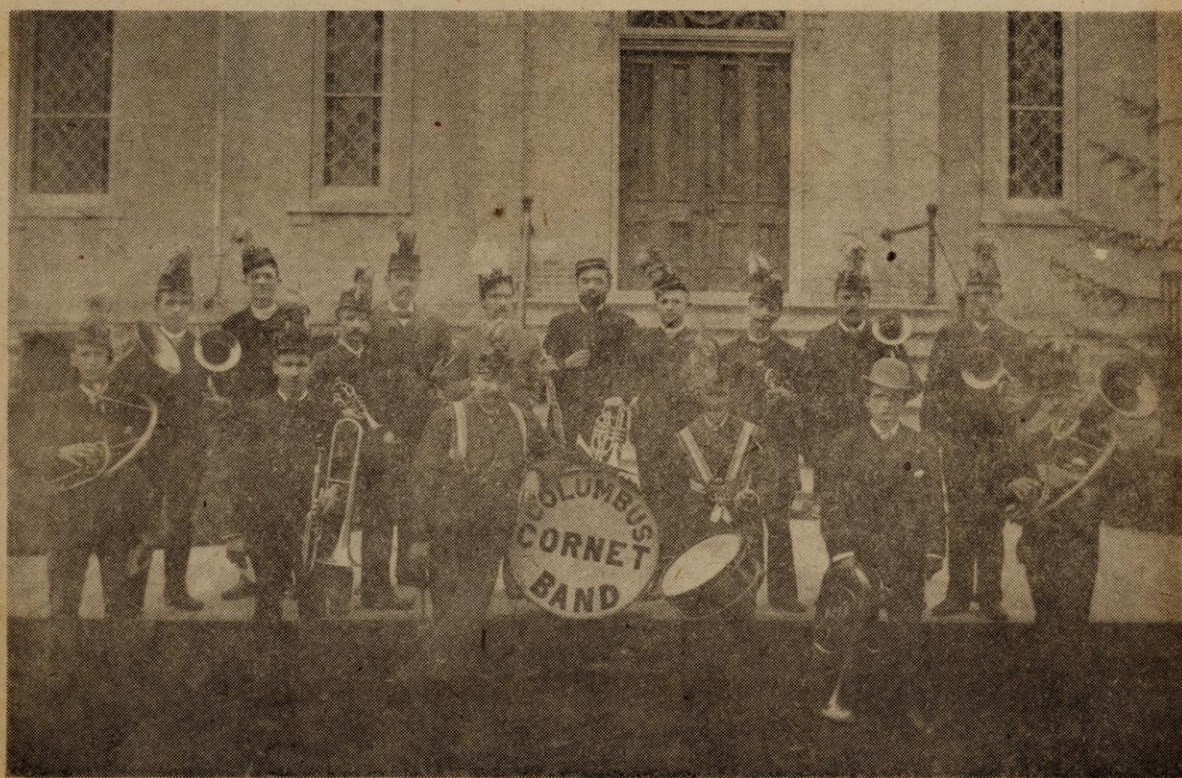
The central figure, seated is probably Mr. Sproesser, probably the leader, holding the smallest soprano horn, probably on E flat; to the left, the man with black tie has a medium size soprano, probably a B flat; while to the right is probably a C soprano.

First horn on the left, in back row is an E flat Alto, called "Althorn"; next a B flat Tenor; next a B flat Baritone and last an E flat Tuba or Bass. Take a look at the "tube work" showing below the base drummers arm. It is from the large amount of tube work that it gets the name Tuba.

We are quite confident that the Columbus Sax Horn Band had seven horns, like those in the picture, and two drums, which comprised the early nine men bands.



Watertown and First Band Taken About 1852



Installment No. 285

January 3, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

The photograph, when taken, was of the seven horn blowers, but at a later time the Bass Drummer on the right and the Tenor (or snare) drummer on the left were added by cutouts from other prints pasted in place so skillfully it can hardly be detected.

The Quentmeyer Ancestors

The music in the Quentmeyer family comes from a long way back, as the great grandfather also named William, of the present Quentmeyers was director of the Hohenzeller Court Band and Orchestra, subsidized by the government of one of the German Kingdoms.

His son William, an only son, was a musician, and also an artisan in the building trades, capable of working in practically every phase of building construction and decorating, from brick walls to mosaics.

We have now learned that he came to Watertown in 1851, and finding no band there, wrote his father the band director, asking that a set of band instruments be sent him. Upon arrival of the horns he organized the band with seven members, and later built a small band stand in his own back yard, from which concerts were given every week when the weather was suitable.

He also became a successful building contractor, and among the many public buildings he built, is the Columbus City Hall, which he took over when the original contractor failed and building came to a stand-still. He also constructed the brick water tower on the hill near the Catholic cemetery.

If the truth could be known, the chances are that the little German Band at Watertown was the inspiration that prompted the first Columbus Band 100 years ago (1856), and who knows but what the instruments may have been secured through Mr. Wm Quentmeyer, grandfather of Rich, Ed, and William Quentmeyer. Do any readers know the whereabouts of any of these 100 year old horns?

The coming of the Civil War a few years later may have reduced the number in the band; or even brought about its demise, one, at least, James McConnell is known to have a military record, he having enlisted in the 23rd Infantry of which he became "Fife Major."

Upon his return to civilian life he organized a Fife and Drum Corps in Columbus.

Our files of old newspapers do not include any from late 1863 to Nov. 1868, during when period no newspaper research can be made.

Another Band

Through the courtesy of Paul Zeidler we have the loan of a photograph of the Columbus Cornet Band, consisting of sixteen persons, which picture, nicely framed, was left in the attic of the Griswold-Bellack home, when it was bought and converted into a funeral home.

The picture, reproduced here, was taken by photographer W. K. Hoskins in 1885, with the main entrance of Olivet church as background.

As will be noted all but one are wearing ornate, caps with cockades; about one half are wearing uniform coats, while the rest are wearing business suits.

One member was immediately recognized by the writer, another was recognized by Reese Roberts and Paul Welk, old time bandmen of 1898 or before.

Two more were identified from news items in research over 1884-5 and four were named by Miss Martha Boelte: One more was tentatively named by Reese Roberts and later confirmed by John Heidke, who named still another, making 10 known out of 16 or only 6 still unknown, as this is written. (July 1956).

We hope our readers may be able to name some or all of those still unknown.

Standing on the elevated wooden sidewalk, from left to right are, No. 1 unknown; No. 2 Charles Erhart, son of harness maker John Erhart; 3. Bob Schmitt, clerk in Sawyers store; 4. unknown; 5. A. J. Shaver, printing office foreman; 6. Prof. William Reeve, director, formerly of Watertown; 7. Bernhard (Bonny) F. Bellack, clothing store, later a prominent M. D.; 8. Fred Francis, photographer; 9. unknown; 10. unknown.

Standing on the grass, left to right: 11. T. Abrahams, clerk in G. T. Dodge's store; 12. Otto Boelte, watch maker; 13. Ed Spring, saloonkeeper; 14. Hiram Smith, snare drummer, father of Lee Smith; 15. unknown; 16. unknown.

It is quite possible that some of these brass instruments are still in existence. Do any of our readers know of any such?

Research

In an effort to identify the members, and learn what we could about this band of 1885, and especially what occasion would bring the band to Olivet church, we have spent many hours patiently reading, even the small personnel items through 1884-5 for which we were amply rewarded.

Going back still further, to Sept. 1832 and reading forward, we find not a single item referring to a Columbus Cornet Band, until the issue of March 28th, 1884 which said, "Talk about Columbus being dead, when the now have a Philharmonic Society, an Orchestra, and a Cornet Band. The two latter were organized on Monday evening, the band with twelve members and the orchestra of seven, all from the band."

The officers elected are as follows. Pres. F. E. Hewens, (hotel); Secy, A. I. Shaver, (printer); Treas., Ed Spring, (saloonkeeper); Director, Ed. Hart (?); Dispatcher, T. Abrahams, clerk.

Continued next week

(Continued from last week)

Instruments Ordered

The money for the instruments was raised by the members of the band, and they were ordered last evening. We glory in their spunk and hope that they will hold their grip and make a success of it."

A previous item indicates that Messrs F. E. Hewens, and Hart, could be two of the "unknowns" in the picture mentioned. Should any reader recognize them, please advise promptly.

An item of Aug., 1883 concerning "the sixth annual parade of the Columbus Fire Dept., comments favorably on the music by the Beaver Dam Cornet Band, further proof that Columbus had no band at that time

Apparently sometime in the period between 1863, last mention we found in newspapers about the original Sax-Horn band, and 1882 farthest back in our present research, the band had ceased to exist.

While it has not direct bearing on the band, an item of Oct., 19th, 1883, indirectly ties in with the band a little later.

The Bellack's

"H. Bellack & Sons, late of Watertown, Wis. are opening a merchant tailoring and clothing store in Hayden Bros., old stand, next door to Lueders & Krause's commission store." That would be where Duke Lohr's Tavern now is, for L & K's was where Columbus Milk Co. now is. The April 4th, 1884 paper said "The cornet band have rented rooms over Uriah Davies' store for a band room and are busy practicing nearly every evening. They have a good set of instruments, and as several of the members have played before, we shall expect a tune from them in a few weeks."

From the paper of May 30th, 1884, "The band boys appeared yesterday afternoon in their new caps and presented a very fine appearance. The caps are decorated with red cockades, with the exception of the leader, which is surmounted with a white one

A Band Wagon

The new band wagon was brought out for the occasion, and with four horses attached conveyed the band through the principal streets, and some fine music was rendered; the improvement since their last appearance being very marked."

June 20th, 1884, issue of the Democrat said, Mr. B. F. Bellack, of the firm of H. Bellack & Sons, clothiers of this city, went to Chicago Sunday morning, having accepted a situation in a wholesale house of that city, of which an elder brother is one of the proprietors. He will be greatly missed in the cornet band as he is an accomplished musician, and a genial fellow. A younger brother from Watertown is now, assisting in the store."

Band Tournament

Because of the new interest in Columbus on account of again having a promising band, as well as an orchestra, a Philharmonic Society (a mixed chorus) and a drum corps, it was decided to invite the bands from neighboring places to a Band Tournament to be held here on Sept. 10th, 1884

The Democrat of Sept. 12th, 1884 devotes almost two columns to a report of the event from which we quote only a few paragraphs.

"The big success of the band tournament on Wednesday was a big surprise to most of our citizens. It was more than they expected, to see such a mass of people turn out."

"The day, which at first looked somewhat threatening, proved favorable, and at an early hour visitors began coming in. The first band to arrive was the Watertown Philharmonic Band which was met at the depot and escorted to the Hewins House (Black Hawk) by the home band."

"The Fall River, Sun Prairie, Waterloo and Portage bands soon followed, and these, with the Columbus Cornet Band, and the Columbus Drum

Corps were all the organizations that put in an appearance; the unfortunate delay of trains keeping several other bands away."

The city was handsomely decorated, with arches over lower James St., and Ludington street about at the Fred Francis home besides several banners of welcome.

The contest of bands and the public speaking was held in "the grove" which could have been the small Oak Grove by the Crawfish River, across the tracks near the depot, or the larger "Whiting's Grove, later called Fuller's Grove lying between the stone quarry road, (County Trunk K) and Fuller St., and between Line St. and Lewis St. and Franklin and Fuller.

If the crowd was as large as the paper indicated, it was probably the latter place.

Prizes were awarded as follows, 1st \$50.00 to Watertown Band; 2nd \$25.00 to Portage Band; 3rd \$15.00 to Waterloo Band.

While the Sun Prairie, Fall River and Columbus Bands won no prizes, they played very well indeed for new bands, the winners all being experienced bands.

The Band stand "gave way" while the Philharmonic Chorus were performing but no one was injured.

Band Builds Skating Rink

Encouraged by the success of the tournament the Band decided to "go into business" to earn money and according to an item in the Democrat of Sept. 19th, 1884 were erecting a large building 100 ft. x 45 ft. on a vacant lot adjoining Mrs. Schaeffers place, to be used as a Roller Skating Rink, which would be ready for business in about 10 days.

The Schaeffer home stood at corner of Spring and James, now 305 West James. The Turner Hall was a corner of Main and James; Therefore the Band's skating rink was between, or where the Boelte home 327 and O. J. Schroeder home 321 W. James, now are.

Prof. Reeve

October 17, 1884

The Cornet Band Boys have secured Prof. Reeves, a competent instructor to teach them, and we shall expect marked improvement in their playing." This same date marks the appearance of an advertisement of the Bellacks in the clothing business in Columbus under the name of H. Bellack & Sons, (Dick & Bonnie) who opened up in the store next to Lueders & Krause, now Columbus Milk Building in October 1883, a year earlier.

October 31, 1884

"The Cornet Band have changed their quarters to rooms formerly occupied by the Common Council, over Bresee & Taylor's old store." (Bouquet Shoppe).

November 4, 1884

"The Cornet Band has recently purchased a fine silver B flat Cornet to be used by Mr. B. F. Bellack. It is a fine instrument and Bonny will play it in an artistic manner."

A Concert Planned

Two or three small items in the next few issues called attention to a Band Concert to be given in mid-December, for the purpose of raising money to pay the director.

December 12 issue

In this issue more details were given from which we quote portions. "Some few months ago when the Band Tournament took place here, the members of Columbus Cornet Band determined in the future to take a prominent place among amateur bands with this object in view, they secured the services of Prof. Wm. Reeve, a young man of great experience in musical matters, and though the latter has been but six weeks with the boys, they made a great stride to the front, and in order to give the public an opportunity of hearing

Continued next week

(Continued from last week)

them in concert music they will give a grand concert next Wednesday evening at Columbus Roller Rink, owned by the band.

They will be assisted by the Columbus Philharmonic Society, the Fall River Cornet Band (of which Prof. Reeve was also instructor) and by way of a treat in orchestra music they have secured the services of the Watertown Orchestra under Mr. Hardege."

December 19, 1884

From this issue we quote a portion of a long write up about the concert.

"The marked improvement of the Columbus Band under the tuition of Prof. Reeve was especially noticeable, and the Fall River Band played their selections excellently. The Watertown Orchestra under leadership of Mr. Arthur Hardege, delighted the entire audience by their fine playing.

Prof. Reeve and Mr. B. F. Bellack played with them very acceptably, and a Piccolo solo by the former was a pleasing feature of the occasion.

Two vocal duets by Miss Grace McConnell and Mr. W. G. Coles, received liberal applause: the singing by the Columbus Philharmonic Society was excellent.

After the concert a social hop was enjoyed by all the young people.

A Supper Is Given

December 26, 1884

"Mr. Ed Spring (one of the Band, and a saloon keeper) gave the members of the cornet band a supper Wednesday evening, (Christmas Eve) served in fine style and embracing many delicacies. The boys say the champagne was A No. 1."

We again refer to the photograph taken in 1885 by photographer Hoskins, in front of the main entrance to Olivet church, then only nine years after the corner store of the church was laid.

Because of the church being in the back ground we began research in July 1885 about a month earlier than the date shown on the photo.

Memorial To Gen. Grant

In the issue of July 31

We found the occasion that would bring the Band to the church. It was "The Memorial Services at Olivet Church last Sunday morning in honor of the late President General Grant were decidedly interesting to the large and cultured audience present for the occasion. The remarks of Rev. L. J. Dinsmore commanded the closest attention of all and were a glowing tribute to the deceased warrior, statesman and President. His assertion that the "mistakes made by the dead hero were chiefly those that had to do with men", must be admitted to be true". There is nothing in this item to indicate the need of the band, so perhaps they merely attended in a body; but the next issue reported a Union Memorial service at the Methodist church the following Saturday, as follows.

"The Memorial Services at the M.E. Church last Saturday afternoon in honor of General Grant, were attended by a large audience, in spite of the unfavorable weather. All places of business in the city were closed from noon until 3 p. m. but only a few business houses were draped in mourning. At the church, Hon. James T. Lewis presided, and speeches were made by Revs. Todd (Universalist) Smith, (Methodist) and Dinsmore (Congregational). The Columbus Cornet Band played several Dirges, and the Drum Corps played a funeral march while the audience were being seated. The vocal music was by Messrs. Babcock, Thomas and James, and was appropriate to the occasion. The church was appropriately decorated."

Bonny Leaves

Another item ties in with the Band "We regret to record a change in the firm of our enterprising

Clothiers, Bellack Bros. The junior member leaving to take charge of the branch store they are about to establish in Fort Atkinson. During their sojourn in this city they have won the confidence and respect of the community. Bonny will be greatly missed among his large circle of friends, and the Cornet band loses a first class musician, whose place will be hard to fill. Mr. Bellack will leave for his new field of labor in about two weeks.

Lack of time prevented continued research, but we assume that Columbus had a band, perhaps with some interruptions, perhaps for several years.

The Columbus Concert Band

Through the kindness of Reese Roberts, we have had the privilege of examining the Secretary's book of a band organized in 1897, which indicates that the Columbus Cornet Band previously reviewed had suspended sometime in the intervening years.

This book shows that the Concert Band was organized April 17th, 1897, and it refers to the organizers as "Stockholders", of whom there were 23 names listed, during the first year April 17, 1897 to April 17, 1898, each of whom had paid in \$5.00 for his share of stock.

The names, as listed and numbered, beginning with No. 1 are as follows.

Boelte, O. C.; Breuning, W. H.; Briesse, Wm.; Boyd, Wm.; Eichberg, George; Freck, H.; Francis, Fred; Gruhn, A.; Howard, G.; Heidbrake, F.; Hughes, Thomas; Jones, Mose; Holtz, George; Kokta, Joe; Meyers, Geo.; Press, Wm.; Roberts, Reese; Roberts, Ted; Roob, Chas.; Stoffle, Geo.; Smith, Lee; Winters, Leo; Welk, Frank.

There is nothing to indicate a legal or formal corporation, and we judge the word stockholder was not used in a legal sense.

Some Quit Others Begin

Before a year had passed, eleven had dropped out and six new names had been added as "Members but not stockholders". They were Eaton, Sumner; Welk, Paul; Loomis, Paul; Brill, Henry; Lange, Frank; Selk, Frank, on various dates from May, 1898 to April, 1899.

Several pages, here and there, have been cut out of the book, as for example, there is no record of receipts and disbursements for the first year April, 1899 to April, 1898 when the record begins with cash in the treasury \$58.28.

The receipts of earnings were Serenade \$5.00; M.W.A. 4th of July, \$65.00; City of Columbus \$50.00; Hook and Ladder Co., \$35.00; Dodge County Fair and Columbus Carnival, \$85.00; Democratic Rally, \$13.00; Band Concert, \$86.18 Several entries were "subscriptions" of small amounts, and two large \$82.75 and \$60.00.

Total receipts \$716.11 and total disbursements \$675.26, leaving balance of \$99.91. The principal disbursements covered the instruments, these being \$150.83; \$234.59; \$83.10. A note at First National Bank for \$75.00 was paid.

A Constitution and By-Laws, covering eight pages was adopted in July, 1898.

The officers elected by ballot, the second year were Reese Roberts, Pres.; W. H. Breuning, Secy.; Geo. Stoffle, Treas.; Otto C. Boelte, General Man.; H. Freck, Janitor.

Hire Leader And Buy Uniforms

In July, 1898 the Band hired Prof. O. W. Joslin as director at a salary of \$40.00 per month.

In August, 1898 a bill for \$190.84 was paid to M. C. Lilley & Co. for 16 "suits of uniform."

A special meeting was held on Jan. 30, 1899 to open the bids and award a contract for a portable Band stand. The bids were as follows.

Robert Jones, \$192.00 for stand \$50.00 for wheels
Schurr Bros., \$182.00 for stand, \$40.00 for wheels
R. D. Vanaken, \$170.00 for stand, \$35.00 for wheels.

Continued next week

Installment No. 288

January 24, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Contract was given to lowest bidder Mr. R. D. Vanaken.

This was a portable band stand, to the extent that it was not permanently located, and could be rolled from some nearby storage spot, to the center of the four corners, for a concert, and then rolled back out of the way.

However it is said to have been somewhat top-heavy and hard to handle.

For some reason never understood by the writer, this band-stand was stored in the back yard of what was then called the "Weiner Cottage" on School St. in 1902, which house was the writers

home for one year when he first came to Columbus.

It is 340 School Street, now the home of the John H. Roberts family.

The band stand was later sold to Fayette Foster, and moved out to his palatial home on the Portage road, now Highway 16, where anyone who cares to look may still see it in the yard at Yohn's Turkey Farm on the left hand side of the road where the Cambria road 146 goes off to the right.

Apparently Prof. Joslin drew pay until Sept. 6th when he must have quit, leaving a vacancy for a few months; but an item of Jan. 15, 1899 shows \$15.00 paid to Otto Krause, instructor.

The last item of minutes in the book is for a meeting March 1st, 1899, which, among other things included a motion by O. C. Boelte that "the Janitor be paid 25 cents per week, and that he is to keep the Band room in good order during the entire time of his office."

The election of Officers resulted in the choice of the following, for ensuing year.

President Frank Welk; Vice Pres. Reese Roberts; Secretary, Lee Smith; Treasurer, H. Breuning; General Manager, O. C. Boelte; Janitor, Wm. Briese.

We know of no group picture of this band, but in 1900, individual pictures of twenty members then comprising the Concert Band of Columbus, were made by photographer A. S. Ralph and all assembled on one large card and re-photographed around a large picture of Drums, Cymbles, 2 Cornets, 4 Horns and a music stand. These large photographs are, no doubt, in many Columbus

homes. The players and the instrument each played are marked on each individual picture.

The picture of Prof. O. W. Joslin, is included with the notation "Director 1898-99."

The others are F. A. Welk, solo cornet; Joe Trapp, solo cornet; Henry Conrad, 1st cornet; Wm. Schweisow, 2nd cornet; Paul Loomis, solo alto; Wm. Breuning, 1st alto; Frank Selk, 2nd alto; Otto Albrecht, 3rd alto; Wm. Schultz, 4th alto; Charles Chadbourn, 1st tenor; Wm. Briese, 1st tenor; Chas. Roob, 2nd tenor; Carl Mueller, 2nd tenor; O. G. Krause, slide trombone; Paul Welk, slide trombone; Otto C. Boelte, baritone; Jos. Kokta, tuba; Reese Roberts, bass drum; Lee Smith, snare drum.

This is, substantially, the band in 1902, the year this writer first came to Columbus.

Continued next week



PICTURE FOR INST. NO. 289



(Continued from last week)

Trouble Ahead

Everything went nicely for a few years, but trouble was brewing as many of the members including some of the eleven original stockholders felt that the rules should be liberalized and that at least a part of the money derived from engagements, should be equally divided among the players instead of it always being put into the treasury.

It came to a head during the winter of 1903-4, when Herman Freck and several others decided they had had enough and decided to organize another band.

The paper of June 10th, 1904 said "The Columbus Concert Band has been engaged for the Firemens Tournament to be held in Portage June 15th. We are glad to say that the reports that this organization would disband are wholly unfounded, that on the contrary new members have joined and the band will be stronger than ever, and will soon be giving open air concerts."

Members of the band still living say that more than half the members refused to go, having already joined the Independent Band, and in order to fill the engagement at Portage, the Concert Band had to hire a few players from elsewhere, and use a few former members and other players who never had been members, to fulfill the engagement.

We have a copy of the program of the Second Annual Concert given by Columbus Concert Band, at the Auditorium (second floor of City Hall) Friday evening, February 22nd, 1900. It lists 15 members as follows. F. A. Welk, Solo Cornet; Herman Freck Ass't Solo Cornet; H. Conrad, First Cornet; E. F. Schultz, Ass't. First Cornet; W. Schweisow, Second Cornet; Chas. Chadbourn, First Alto; Paul Loomis, Second Alto; Frank Selk, Third Alto; O. G. Krause, Slide Trombone; Paul Welk, First Tenor; W. Briese, Second Tenor; O. C. Boelte, Baritone; Joe Kokta, Bass; D. R. Roberts, Bass Drum; Lee Smith, Snare Drum; O. W. Joslin, Director.

The program was, "Star Spangled Banner," "Popular Kentucky Medley"—Band; 2 Vocal Duet, "Star of My Life," Jennie Griffith and Mrs. P. D. Durant; 3 "Larboard Watch," Band; 4 Contralto Solo, "A Dream," Miss Falk; Cornet and Trombone Duet, O. W. Joslin and Otto Krause; 6 Vocal Solo, "Sleep Little Baby of Mine," Eva Jones; 7 Soprano Solo—Mizzi, "The Herd Girl," Jennie Griffiths; 8 Piano Solo, "A Chopin Nocturne Op 9, No. 1" and B "March Grotesque Op 32" by Linding, Miss Falk; 9 "Clorindy," Band; 10 Vocal Duet, "Like the Lark," Henry Jones and Solomon Griffith; 11 Violin Solo, "Il Trovatore," Wallie Coapman, 12 Contralto Solo, "Life's Lullaby," Miss Falk; 13 Trombone Solo, "Concertino," O. G. Krause; 14 Vocal Solo, "Little Boy Blue," Henry Jones; 15 "Leila," Serenata Mexicana, Band "America," Band, Audience Rise and Sing.

Mrs. Dr. E. M. Poser had two sisters the Misses Falk; one, Fredricka, the singer, became Mrs. Truleson of Stoughton, the other Clara, the pianist, became a famous concert pianist and later was Mrs. Murphy of Madison, mother of Miss Brindhild Murphy, a niece of Mrs. Poser, a Madison School Teacher who visits her aunt Della here frequently.

The paper of July 8, 1904, reporting on the 4th of July celebration, said "The music throughout the day was provided by the new Columbus Independent Band, and on July 15th said."

Columbus Independent Band

"This band was organized June 8th and consists of most of the old players of the city. Columbus is in need of a good big brass band and this is a

promising one for the future. Mr. Herman (Doc) Freck states that there are twenty players now attending rehearsals and the band will try to conduct three rehearsals a week if possible.

The members are H. Freck, J. L. Trapp, G. Eichberg, F. Selk, Lee Smith, F. Schmidt, E. Lueders, Dr. G. Howard, O. Albrecht, Wm. Holstein, W. Koenecke, P. H. Welk, W. Cook, C. Jones, J. Reynolds, J. Wright, Dr. R. D. Vanaken, E. (Ira) Hutchinson, G. Grisbach and Lee Sherman.

Next band rehearsal Friday evening, July 15th." August 26, 1904

Concert & Dance Big Success

Independent Band Gives Their First Annual Concert — Large Attendance.

"The first annual concert and dance given by the newly organized Independent Band of this city occurred last Friday evening

Hundreds of people listened to the superior quality of music put up by this organization, and encore after encore followed each effort of the musicians. The Concert on the whole was a treat, and it really was the first open air one given this season.

The weather was threatening and undoubtedly kept many from attending.

Citizens of Columbus should feel proud of this band and give them every encouragement possible. They are entirely dependent on the people for their support, and ask no involuntary subscriptions from citizens or businessmen at large.

Over 100 tickets were sold for this affair, (concert and dance) which only shows the popularity they have already achieved. The band numbers 19 pieces. Following are the list of present members.

Officers, Pres. Dr. R. D. Vanaken; Vice Pres., Joe S. Trapp; Secy., Lee J. Smith; Treas., Geo. Eichberg, Director-Manager, Herman Freck.

List of members:

Basses, R. D. Vanaken, Ed (Ira) Hutchinson, Baritones, J. C. Wright, John Randalls. Slide Trombones, Paul Welk, Clinton Jones. Altos, Will Holstein, Otto Albrecht, Walter Konecke, Carl Ames. Clarinets, Frank Schmidt, Eugene Lueders, Lee J. Smith, Cornets, Geo Eichberg, Frank Selk, Joe Trapp, Herman Freck. Drums, Lee (Pee Wee) Sherman, Sam McLarty.

Over \$100.00 was realized which will go to purchase uniforms for the band.

It is strictly a home organization, and was not organized for a money making scheme, but just to promote the social interests of the city.

The dance which followed the concert was a joyous affair, music being furnished by the Columbus Orchestra of six pieces. Over ninety couples attended which taxed the hall to its utmost.

Through the thoughtfulness of Mr. Frank Schmied, we are able to reproduce a picture of the Columbus Orchestra, made up exclusively of players in the Independent Band.

As indicated in paragraph above, it started with six pieces, in 1904, but the picture, which Frank says was made in 1906 shows nine players. It was taken by photographer Joe Trapp and the postal card from which the accompanying picture was made, was mailed Dec. 9th, 1908 to Frank at Hartford, Wis., where he had gone to get some automobile assembling experience with the Kissell Co., which experience came in very handy a few years later during the days of the short-lived Badger Motor Co. (see installments 257 to 266 in Story of Columbus.)

Identification back row, from left, Lee Smith, Paul Welk, Frank Schade, Doc. Freck, Frank Schmied. Seated from left, Ernest Jones, Joe Trapp, Eugene Lueders, and Carl Lueders.

Continued next week

Installment No. 290

February 7, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Frank says that while they did play at concerts some, by far their engagements were for dances; they played at many neighboring towns from Portage to Watertown, and from Beaver Dam to Waterloo and Sun Prairie.

This group held together for about the same years as the Independent Band, of which they were all members.

Asked how much that orchestra received for playing at a dance, Joe Trapp replied "Mostly \$20.00, if all were there, or somewhere around \$2.00 apiece, paying their own expenses." A dollar went a long way farther then than now.

Old Band Still Alive

Evidently the old Columbus Concert Band was still in existence, in spite of a row that caused many of the players to resign and join the new Independent Band, as a short item in the Democrat of August 26, 1904 said, "The Columbus Concert Band has been engaged to play one day at the Columbia County Fair in Portage, Sept. 2nd, 1904. This being their third appearance at the above Fair, which speaks well for our band." In the same issue there was an item about an ice cream social given by the ladies of St. Jerome's Church, on the lawn, at which nearly 800 people were served. The Columbus Independent Band furnished music for the occasion, at which in addition to ice cream, coffee and other light refreshments were served. The net proceeds were about \$125.00.

There Were Two

The above items is proof that for a brief time, Columbus had two bands, the Independent Band being an off-shoot of the earlier Columbus Concert Band organized in 1897.

As mentioned earlier, the Concert Band had a Constitution and By-Laws covering eight pages in the Minute Book.

Strictly Enforced

The most stringent provision was that in the event of a break-up of the band, the property, that is, the instruments, uniforms, etc. owned by the Band became the property of the surviving resident stockholders, including the funds in the treasury. The property would be sold to the highest bidder and the proceeds divided not amongst all of the members, but amongst the stockholders. There was also a provision that any original stockholder leaving Columbus or vicinity could sell his share at cost (5.00) so he would be nothing out.

The Board of Directors were to control the property of the band and to appropriate its funds, make its purchases, but never to an amount exceeding the funds in the treasury at the time.

Every new member joining after April 17th 1898 was required to pay admittance fee of \$5.00 whereupon he became a member but not a stockholder, and all were required to sign the Constitution and By-Laws. In other words he agreed in advance to abide by the rules and regulations set forth.

It is believed by Reese Roberts, only living original stockholder, that the engagement for the one day at Columbia County Fair, was the last time the Columbus Concert Band played, and then

it was only a skeleton organization, augmented by a few players from elsewhere and a few local players not members of either band, among whom were George Bunsen and Julius Hendrickson.

Only three of the original stockholders and officers, Otto C. Boelte, Frank Welk and Reese Roberts were left after the break up, none of whom joined the Independents.

Buy New Instruments

It is not clear what disposition was made of the instruments and uniforms owned by the concert band; possibly some members had acquired ownership of the instrument they had been playing, but be that as it may, an item in the paper of Jan. 6th, 1905 says that "The Columbus Independent Band has purchased a new set of the famous C. G. Conn instruments.

They were received Saturday and so far have proved satisfactory in every way.

The boys are to be congratulated for their pluck and are worthy of the confidence of the public, as they were purchased in an independent way without any outside support, each member being the possessor of his own instrument."

Active

Scanning the newspapers forward through 1905 there were frequent items concerning Band Concerts, practices etc., indicating that the Independent Band was active in the community.

A program of the second annual Concert of the Independent Band, Friday evening, March 3rd, 1905 is reproduced herewith.

PROGRAMME

PART I

- March — Wireless Dispatch Will Huff
Band
Overture—Lustspiel Keler-Bella
Band
Cornet Solo—Nearer my God to Thee....Banhauser
Herman Freck
Overture—Sky Pilot Laurens
Band
Piano Solo Mis Falk
Band
Waltz—Day Dream Lamke
Band

INTERMISSION

PART II

- March—Brothers in Arms Chambers
Band
Vocal Selection Smith and McNulty
Piano Solo Miss Falk
Overture—Poet and Peasant Fr. V. Suppe
Band
Violin Duet Lueders and Trapp
March—Waldemere Losey
Band

The piano player was Miss Clara Falk of Stoughton, who later became Mrs. Murphy, Madison.

The instrumentation shows considerable change from the 1900 Concert by the Columbus Concert Band, previously mentioned, and was as follows.

3 cornets, 4 altos, 2 slide trombones (tenors), 1 baritone, 1 E flat bass, 1 B flat bass, 4 clarinets, 1 piccolo, 1 snare drum and 1 bass drum.

Continued next week

Installment No. 291

February 14, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

This band, we understand from former members continued for a number of years perhaps ten or twelve years and then, like all bands in small places ceased to be.

Columbus Independent Band

We show here, a picture of this band taken at its prime, when there were twenty players. The pictures were taken by Joe L. Trapp, "The busy photographer", probably about 1905, about a year after the band was organized, and re-photographed as a group.

The personnel, from left to right beginning with the top row, were, James Wright, baritone; William Holstein, alto; Frank Selk, alto; Otto Albrecht, alto; Paul Welk, slide trombone; Doc. R. D. Vanaken, bass; Earl Jackson, bass drum; E. (Ira) Hutchinson, bass tuba; Clint Jones, slide trombone; Lee (Pee Wee) Sherman, snare drum; Samuel McClarty, snare drum; Frank Schmied, clarinet; Lee Smith, clarinet; Will Kickbusch, piccolo; Eugene Lueders, clarinet; Ernest Jones, clarinet; John Wohlfer, second cornet; Joe L. Trapp, solo cornet; Herman (Doc) Freck, solo cornet; George Eichberg, first cornet.

Still Another

Another band was started later, by some of the players who had been members of the Independent; Some of those contacted thought it was revived by some of the Legionnaires about 1918, and ultimately became known as Columbus Municipal Band. There may be plenty of information in the

old newspaper files, but we cannot spare the time for careful research, to establish specific dates.

The Municipal Band

Max Klatt, born and raised here, now a resident of Milwaukee, was manager for years.

The late Frank Welk was active throughout a

long period, and at times directed the band. The late A. C. (Frank) Schey was likewise a director for some time.

As bands in high schools increased and spread to small towns and cities, so-called city bands began to decline.

It may be interesting news to some, that one of the first Community Service projects undertaken by Columbus Rotary club in its first year with Wm. L. Fritz as president was to spark plug a drive for funds for the first uniforms for the first school band in 1925, and both as a club and as individuals liberal contributions were made.

Sometime in the early nineteen twenties our first High School Band was organized and as the school players became proficient some of them found their way into the City Band.

We do not recall whether Ted Silbeck was the first school band director, but we think he was, and that he directed the city band as well, as did also Lawrence Barr, Oscar Hoh, and Vito Intravia, in later years.

It is to be regretted that we have no line on the whereabouts of the secretary's minute book or other records of earlier period.

Continued next week



(Continued from last week)

Through the courtesy and good memory of Max C. Klatt, to whom we wrote for information on the Municipal Band, we are able to set forth in his own words, the reply to our inquiry, as we are using his letter verbatim.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Sept. 11, 1956

You wrote me asking for data on the old Municipal Band. Well as I recall, not having any records except my memory — we first started the organization in about 1920. At that time the state had passed a bill authorizing the organization of legion bands thru out the state and furnishing an instructor for the different units and paying his expenses. I contacted the Madison office and we got started. Thru the recommendation of the Holton Band Instrument Co. of Elkhorn, Wis. we hired Mr. Ted Silbeck to instruct and direct our unit. As a nucleus we had some members of the old Independent Band to fill the foundation chairs. Among these were Joe Trapp, Henry Trapp, Paul Welk, Clint Jones, Lee Smith and myself. To these were added Paul Lohr, Otto Weller, Henry Hatzinger, Louis Roob, Roland Snow, Wayne Knapp, Carl Wake, Fred Brokopp, Martin Christiansen, Floyd Fairbanks, Wm. Evans jr., Eddie Lowth, Curt Miller, Vern Adams, Ray Rogler and a few others.

Ted Silbeck proved to be a very well schooled instructor with a lot of professional experience. He was a graduate of the old Weldon School of Music, Chicago, Ill. and at one time played solo cornet with the famous McDonald's Kiltie Band, which toured Europe. He also played with the Honey Boys Minstrel show which toured the nation.

The band progressed rapidly under Silbeck's leadership and played many fine concerts in the Columbus Park and many of out town engagements until his death, which was a shock to all of us and a sad loss to the band and the community.

We then were without a leader for some time until Mr. Lawrence Barr, a graduate of Northwestern University School of Music, Evanston, Ill. was hired by the school board to teach music in our public schools. After a few years he left for Missoula, Mont. where he was hired as bandmaster of the University of Montana.

Then the school board hired Mr. Oscar Hoh of New London, Wis. Mr. Hoh was another very capable director and his school bands won many first place ratings in A division, in concert, solo and ensemble competitions. They also won first rating in marching at the band tournaments in which they were entered and first at the University of Wisconsin football stadium for three years in succession against competition with high school bands from all over the state. These marching competitions were held between halves of the University football games. Mr. Hoh also directed the city band and had a very good band.

I left Columbus and moved to Milwaukee when I now reside. I still play with famous Blatz Post No. 373 American Legion Band here. I have played with them for twenty-one years.

Sorry that I don't have a picture of the old band but I never recall that we had one taken. Hoping this data may be of some help to you. I remain.

Sincerely,

M C. Klatt

In 1934

Through the courtesy of Rich Quentmeyer, we do have the records of Columbus Municipal Band, including 24 pages of typewritten Constitution and By-Laws, and minutes of meetings, roll of members etc. from 1934 to 1943.

The members as of 1934 in their own handwriting agree to abide in the rules in the following language. "Whereas, in all well regulated organizations certain laws or rules are necessary for the government of such organizations, we, the mem-

bers of the Columbus Municipal Band, do hereby agree to adopt and give our hearty support to the foregoing Constitution and By-Laws."

They Were

F. A. Welk, Richard W. Quentmeyer, Anselm Jehl, Clarence Bleich, Orville Roberts, Paul H. Welk, Henry J. Hatzinger, H. M. Trapp, Lee J. Smith, R. S. Snow, Carl Lewke, Floyd H. Fairbanks, E. Schultheis, Chas. F. Schmied, Ray A. Rogler, C. C. Miller, J. L. Trapp, Mildred Lange, Wilma Kalkhorst, Marcella Kalkhorst, Alberta Martens, Eleanor Krakow, John S. Pratt, Lloyd Lange, B. Schultheis, Dorothy Jane Bahr, Lorraine Schultheis, Bernard Bonnett, a total of twenty-eight.

Many New Faces

Many other names show up in subsequent minutes over some years, including Carl Wake, Jack Yeager, Wm. Voelker, Eleanor Kur'h, Josephine Buschke, Robert Sharrow, Geraldine Boetcher, Bill Evans Jr., Harold Joyce, Russell Foster, Marie Mudrock, Francis Schmied, Charlotte Eichberg, Vera Henk, Donald Peters, Earl Yuds, Ruth Christians, Merwin Jones, Ralph Pratt Jr., Doris Roberts, Ruth Wienke, Edgar Wippermann, Glen Mohr, John Jaeger, Jos. Buschke, James Mulligan, Wallace Weideman, Nan Owen, John Roberts, Gladys Heyden, Doris Quentmeyer, Marion Vearus, Inez Krenz, Joe Evans, Ethel Theede, John Caldwell, Meville Spicer, Virgil Obermeyer, Gilbert Kohlhaas, Mary J. Hatzinger, Byron Spicer, Richard Luey, Jack Rogler, Norman Alff, Vern Adams, Mrs. Mary Thomas, Caryl Andrews, John Roob, Charles Johnson, Dallas Hermanson, John P. Jones, Roger Thomas, Kenneth Rutherford, Marshall Snow, Robert Swarthout, Richard Luey, Patricia O'Brien, Elaine Mickelson, Warren Roberts, John Miller, Wallace Noller, Edward Nitz, Janet Priem, Charles Owen, Barbara Sewell, John Doleshal, June Redlin, Esther Wright, and perhaps others.

Richard Quentmeyer

From the beginning, of the re-organization of the band in 1934, Richard Quentmeyer was elected and re-elected each year as President and manager.

The same is true of Frank Welk as Treasurer; during the period under review, three different secretaries served, all recruits from the high school, Mildred Lange, Marcella Kalkhorst, and Ethel Theede.

At the time of re-organizing the band in 1934, apparently after a short lapse, perhaps only a year or two, possibly half the members had played in previous City Bands, the remainder being high school graduates or perhaps still in school.

High School Players Predominate

But the membership list as of 1939 included only six "Veterans", the remaining twenty nine of whom 18 were boys, were or had been high school people.

The membership list as of 1942-43 contained five of the older players, Joe Trapp, Curt Miller, Paul Welk, Frank Welk, and Richard Quentmeyer, along with eleven H. S. boys and seven H. S. girls.

The last minutes in the book covered a Board of Directors meeting held Nov. 12th, 1943.

It was voted to send Christmas presents to nine former members who were then in the Armed Forces; they were John Roob, Roger Thomas, Joe Evans, Bill Evans Jr., Ralph Pratt Jr., Bernard Bonnett, Roger Alff, Norman Alff and John P. Jones.

It was also voted to have no banquet that year due to the fact that so few members could attend.

While nothing in the minutes indicated that the band was breaking up, the fact that there are no later records of meetings, and several blank pages in the book, looks like the end of the road for Columbus Municipal Band.

Continued next week

Installment No. 293

February 28, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



High School Orchestras

While researching on the City Band, we picked up a few items on High School Orchestras. They go as far back to at least 1901 and perhaps still farther, as shown in the back copies of the High

School Annuals, or year books we have seen—not a complete file however.

But the only one of fifty years or more ago of which a picture has been found was taken in 1906, a picture of which we reproduce here.



It consisted of nine players and the director who was Mr. Frank A. Welk, brother of Paul, and father of Louis and Harmie.

Standing left to right are Lonnie Rake, Bass drum; Max Klatt, Clarinet and Cornet; F. A. Welk, director; Melvin Reynolds, Violin, Alfred Briesse, Violin. Seated, Sam McLarty, brother of Mrs. Joe Trapp, Snare drum; Freddie Krueger,

Violin; Louis Welk, Violin; Fayette Foster, Violin; Miss Eva Roske, Pianist, now Mrs. Eva Gruhn. The Cornet laying on the piano, was the directors who both played and directed.

It was not until the early nineteen twenties that the school had a band, as far as we have found out.



PICTURE FOR INST. NO. 294



Trapp Family Band

About the turn of the century Mr. Casper Trapp and five sons, and two nephews, sons of John his brother had a country band, well known in the Hampden-Bristol territory. (see installment No. 49)

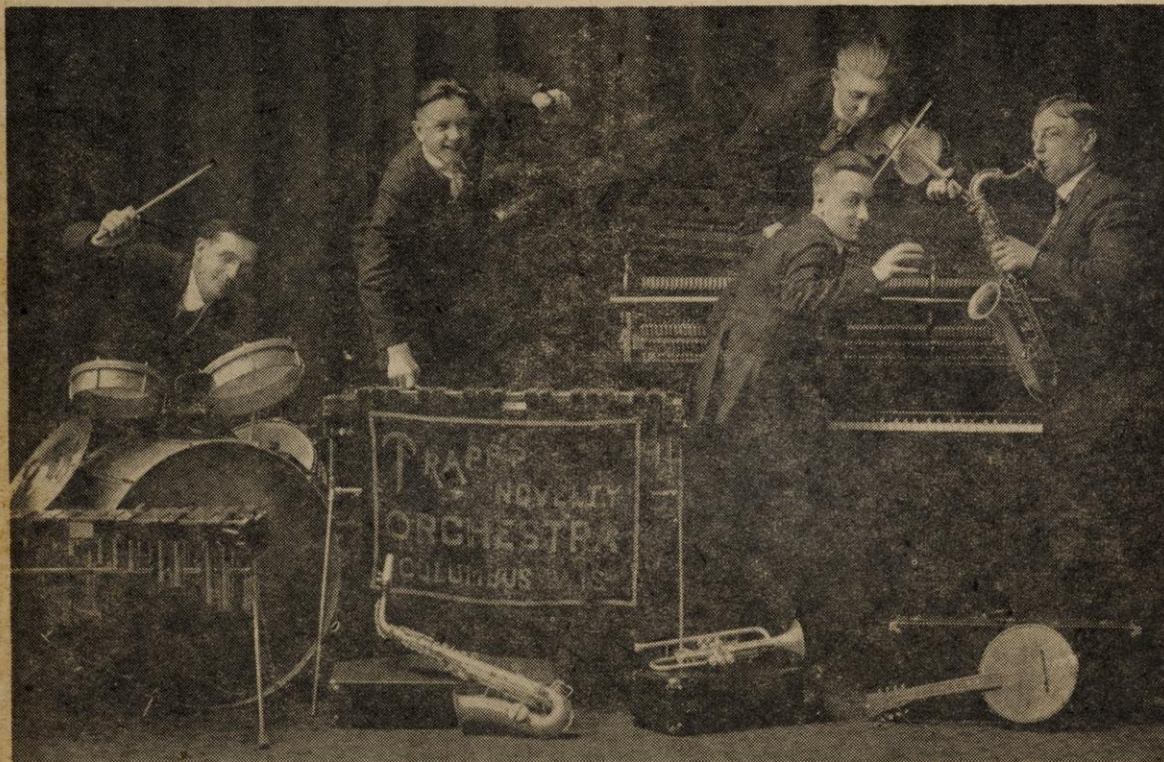
A picture shown in the above mentioned installment is reproduced here. It consisted of two, clarinets, one cornet, three horns, tuba and snare drum. Joe says the only derby hat he ever owned is the one he is wearing in the picture.

Trapps Novelty Orchestra

Another well known Music Organization, Trapps

Novelty Orchestra, should be mentioned. The group was made up of Lee J. Smith, drums and traps; Earl Smith, Lee's son, saxophone and marimbophone; Otto Weller, violin; Paul (Duke) Lohr, piano, and Joe L. Trapp, saxophone, Trumpet and Banjo. The orchestra flourished from 1917 to 1921, inclusive.

They had memorized a large repertoire of dance music, and could play almost any piece called for, never resorted to sheet music, and giving free rein to improvisation.



We show here a picture of the "five" in action. Left to right, Lee Smith with part of his "traps", Earl Smith, marimbophone and saxophone, Otto

Weller, on piano, playing violin; Duke Lohr at piano, and Joe Trapp, director and manager, playing a Sax at the moment.

Installment No. 294

March 7, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)
Now Mostly School Bands

Not only in Columbus, but in most places under four or five thousand population, high school bands have almost completely replaced the old time bands, which were mostly horns, with few if any reed instruments.

Our successive High School Bands have grown in size and in instrumentation, until today in our present intregated school system approximately 200 boys and girls receive instruction and are playing in either a junior or the senior band.

The instruments and uniforms are the best obtainable; their concerts are high grade; their appearance when marching is inspiring, and among the spectators there are always some, who, once upon a time, away back when, played in a band, and can hardly keep their feet still, when the band goes by, led by the prancing majorettes.

It is not the writers purpose to write up the, more than thirty, different High School Bands we have had, some of which were top notch in every respect.

Our present H. S. Band, under the able direction and leadership of Mr. James Abraham is a worthy successor to any of the excellent bands that have preceded it.

However no School Band can completely take the place in the community of the smaller city bands. School work and school activities must come first; Transportation of 75 to 100 school players for evening or afternoon concerts in the park, or at county fairs or other possible engagements, alone would be a problem, even if school work did not interfere.

So, the old time small band of 16 to 20 players, discoursing what the editors used to call "sweet music", is almost a thing of the past, at least in this area.

The End

Rev. C. E. Rosenkraus

In installment No. 21 we published a photograph of Rev. Cyrus E. Rosenkraus, the first minister to take up residence in Columbus, and and in installment No. 42 we gave a brief sketch of him; While he was frequently and always favorably mentioned in the newspapers of 1855 onward, it was only recently while researching on Civil War items in the papers of 1861 that we ran across the obituary of this remarkable man.

No one now living here could have known him, but many of our "oldsters" have known about him from heresay; and he most certainly left his mark on this community in which he lived and labored for many years.

We reprint his obituary from the Journal-Republican of Feb. 14, 1861 in its entirety, because of its real interest; It must have been written by some one who knew with intimate detail, the story of his life work.

Cyrus E. Rosenkraus

From Obit. Feb. 14, 1861

Mr. Rosenkraus was one of the oldest residents of Columbus having removed to this place in the fall of 1849. As a man, a citizen and a Christian Minister, he had the high esteem and entire confidence of the whole community. Probably

no individual in our town was more widely known, or had a deeper hold upon the affections of our people.

Cyrus Egbert Rosenkraus was a native of Walpack, Sussex Co., New Jersey and was born in March 1809. His youth was spent in agricultural labors upon his father's farm.

During his early years he made good use of the scanty opportunities for school instructions that were within his reach. His earnest desire for a better education than his native place afforded, led him, about the year 1830 to emigrate to Western N. Y. where he commenced a college course at Franklin Academy at Prattsburg, Stenben Co. He took his collegiate course at Amhurst College, Mass., of which the venerable Dr. Heman Humphrey was then President, at which institution he graduated.

He afterward spent some time in teaching and was for a while principal of an academy on Long Island.

He pursued his theological studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. At the outset he intended to devote his life to foreign or home missionary work, and refused liberal offers and bright prospects in the east, that he might engage in the severe labors and share the hardships of the then sparcely settled regions of the northwest.

He Came West

Immediately after his ordination to the work of the ministry he came under the patronage of the Home Missionary Society to the Territory of Wisconsin and commenced his labors in Walworth county.

He was for several years pastor of the church at East Troy, Wis. From East Troy he moved to Columbus and from the organization of the Congregational, (now Presbyterian, as of 1861) church in this town he was its minister for about ten years, until failing health compelled him to relinquish pulpit labor.

Pioneer In Many Fields

Mr. Rosenkraus was a pioneer. When the temperance cause was unpopular and had few advocates he stood forth the champion even in his youth, of total abstinence from all intoxicating drinks. He gave the first public lecture for temperance in the place of his home, Wayland, N. Y. and had always cheered the friends of the cause wherever his voice could be heard or his daily example seen.

He pioneered the anti-slavery cause. When the public mind was asleep on the subject of slavery his mind and pen were busy framing the arguments which have since been so patent in framing the sentiment of the country.

And he was among the foremost of those who worked with zeal and earnestness to mould and build up the institutions of our young and growing state on a thoroughly Christian basis.

He was an active friend of general education and gave his constant support to every project which seemed in his judgment suited to the building up of literary institution amongst us. By the sufferage of his fellow citizens he was from year to year elected under the old organization, commissioner, and under the new organization superintendent of public schools.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

His successive re-elections show that the duties of those officers were discharged in a manner satisfactory to the towns in which he lived. And he has been identified in feeling and action with every interest of the community: Physical, Moral, Intellectual and Religious.

But the great work of his life was the Christian Ministry. To it he devoted his time, his thoughts, his energy. He felt that one was his master, even Christ, and his service he loved.

He coveted no honor but the approbation of his master. His daily life, no less than his preaching was a rebuke to the scoffer, and an evidence in the face even of the gainsaying of the power of the Christian religion."

Columbus Collegiate Institute

Mr. Rosenkraus was one of the prime movers in establishing Columbus Collegiate Institute in Columbus. In March, 1855 the Institute was incorporated by J. T. Lewis, John Q. Adams, R. W. Earll, E. P. Silsbee, Chester W. Dean, Joseph S. Manning, Wm. C. Spencer, W. W. Drake, W. A. Niles, John A. Elliott and Cyrus E. Rosenkraus.

In April of the same year the officers were chosen, with Mr. Rosenkraus, as president. In their minds the thought was to provide for the future education of the youth of the area, and in their optimism they purchased the entire block 15 in Lewis' village of West Columbus, on which block a small building was erected as a beginning of what they hoped and had no doubt would become a flourishing Academy.

Miss Martha Brigham, who later became Mrs. William Hazelton, and Miss Mary L. Romeroy who became Mrs. John Polly, were engaged as teachers.

But the Institute lasted only a few years for upon the completion of the Union School, the first brick school, in which a few high school subjects were taught, and the difficulty of securing subscriptions for the necessary funds, seemed insurmountable, brought about the suspension of the Institute.

The one building was later occupied as a residence by Mr. M. Ingalls, and has been the home of many other citizens. For the past several years it has been owned and occupied by Mrs. Russell Hermanson (Dorothy), 433 W. Harrison.

Several other attempts to start private schools in Columbus have been made, one in 1859 by Miss Achsah Huyck, who later became the wife of Rev. Mr. Phillips. Another a couple of years later, called "Select School" was headed by a Mr. Robinson, but it too lasted only a couple of years.

The following brief article appeared in the Journal-Republican of Feb. 14th, 1861, concerning Mr. Robinson's school.

February 14, 1861

A Visit To Mr. Robinson's School

Mr. Editor: Accepting an invitation from Mr. Robinson to visit his "Select School" (obviously this was a private school), I repaired to his school room, in Farnham's Hall, at 1 o'clock p. m. to see and hear. A happier looking, or better behaved class of pupils, it was never my good fortune to behold.

Each and every one appeared to be intent on his or her study. As I entered the room, I insensibly felt that I had entered the charmed circle where love swayed the sceptre.

Mutual respect seemed to exist between teachers and scholars. The large number of pupils, over sixty in regular attendance, filling the seats and room, giving the place an air of quiet business. Neatness was observable in everything.

Mr. Robinson seems to have the rare talent of governing a school without the use of the rod, a relic of barbarism, but which has been in high favor heretofore in some localities.

His list of scholarships showed a high degree of perfection, and the "Attendance average" was almost up to the maximum. The various classes in Grammar, Rhetoric, Geometry, Surveying, Latin German, Sc. Sc. all acquitted themselves creditably.

The pupils of the Second Division, under the care of Miss Mosher, Mr. Robinson's accomplished assistant, appeared to be making rapid progress.

Mr. Editor, if any one doubts that we have a first class high school in our midst, let them visit Farnham's Hall upon any day of the week where they will meet a cordial welcome from the teachers, and will be well repaid for their trouble.

It is, in fact, an Academy, affording an opportunity to all to pursue an academical course of study here at home; and the large number of young ladies and gentlemen in attendance shows that Mr. Robinson's efforts to benefit the community and teach a good school, are appreciated by the pupils and community.

A Visitor

Wheeler - Rockwell Families

The most recent Wheeler family, the third generation since John R. Wheeler hung out his sign as Banker in 1861, was that of his name-sake and grandson J. Russell Wheeler, who came here in 1896 to begin country banking in the bank started by his grandfather, thirty five years earlier.

Many of our middle aged and elderly people will remember J. R. and his wife Anna and their three children, although it was in 1923, thirty four years ago that they left Columbus for "distant pastures, larger and greener."

There are citizens of Columbus, who will still remember John E. Wheeler and his wife, the former Alice Elizabeth Edwards of Elkhorn, and their other children, Herbert, Marie and Lyman for they once lived here, late in life, he being the second generation, son of John R. and father of J. Russell.

But no one living here now will remember the founder of the Union Bank, who operated it during the first twelve years 1861-73. John R. Wheeler, although there may be a very few here who attended his funeral in Sept. 1881, seventy five years ago, but it is doubtful.

The Rockwells

The Rockwell's tie into the local story by marriage, by direct line of descent, by being early merchants back in Territorial days, and into the business life, political life, and banking life, not only of Columbus, but prior thereto, in the early development of Milwaukee, Elkhorn, Oconomowoc, Platteville and surrounding area as well.

Since we have considerable information about the Rockwells, we will sketch briefly the Line of Descent from the first Rockwell, of this family, to come to America, down to those directly connected with the early history of Columbus.

John Rockwell Sr.

(1) John Rockwell Sr. came from the vicinity of Dorchester, England to settle at Stamford, Conn., but the exact date is not known to the writer. But in the published Genealogy of the Rockwell family, he is credited as one of the earliest settlers of Stamford and was allotted a home lot of two acres and some timberland on Dec. 7th, 1641. His wife was Elizabeth Weed. He moved from Stamford, Conn. to Rye, N. Y. in 1669, where he died in 1676.

(2) His son John Jr., was born in Stamford, dates of birth and marriage, and to whom not found in the published genealogy, but his death as Stamford is given as 1673.

(3) Thomas, son of John Jr. was born in Stamford about 1667 and was married to Sarah Resco at Norwalk in 1703. He died at Norwalk in 1712 and his widow moved to Ridgefield where her son

(4) Jabez was born in 1712. Jabez was married to a young woman whose first name was Kedzia, last name not given. They moved to Danbury, Conn., where Jabez died July 6th, 1757.

(5) Jabez Rockwell Jr. was born in Ridgefield July 1, 1740 and was married to Elizabeth Sperry; date or place of marriage not shown; however since the father Jabez died in Danbury in 1757, when Jabez Jr. would have been only 17, the presumption is that Jabez Jr. was married in Danbury, Conn. especially since the record shows that "He moved to Butternuts, Otsego County, N. Y. soon after the burning of Danbury" (by the British troops). The record further shows that Jabez Rockwell Jr. "enlisted May 9th, 1775 in 7th Company 6th Regiment" and the public records of Danbury furnish a detailed account of his services in the Revolutionary War. He died at Butternuts, N. Y., later called Gilbertsville, in 1837 at the age of 97.

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Installment No. 296

March 21, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

(6) Benjamin Rockwell, son of Jabez Jr. was born in Danbury, Conn., May 19th, 1762, so was a young child when his parents moved to Butternuts, N. Y. after the burning of Danbury. He was married to Tryphena Starr, time or place not given. He died in 1835.

Ard S. Rockwell

(7) Ard Starr Rockwell was a son of the above mentioned Benjamin; and was born at Butternuts or Gilbertsville, N. Y. in 1784. The date of his death, as shown on his monument, in Hillside cemetery, Columbus, is July 5th, 1866, age 82 years 7 months, which figuring back would give 1784 as his birth year.

Ard Starr Rockwell was married to Betsey Shaw March 2nd, 1809, born in Palmer, near Worcester, Mass. Aug. 1st, 1887 but when 7 years old her parents moved to Otsego County, N. Y.

Betsey Shaw

Betsey Shaw was descended from a sterling and honorable New England ancestry, and was, herself, a model woman in every respect. Her father Col. David Shaw fought in the Revolutionary War, and became a man of mark and distinction in the legislature of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

One of her brothers, David, served in the War of 1812 and rose to a Colonelcy in that conflict.

Another brother was Col. John Shaw, who came west and located in Iowa in territorial days.

Ard S. and Betsey S. Rockwell became parents of four sons and four daughters, all born at Butternuts, N. Y. later called Gilbertsville. They were,

(1) John S. Rockwell born March 25, 1810; married to Lovina Hard. He died May 26th, 1863 and is buried in Oconomowoc, of which place he was one of the founding pioneer settlers.

(2) LeGrand Rockwell, born March 21st, 1812; married to Frances A. Hiscox; he died in Elkhorn, Wis. Dec. 23, 1869 of which place he was a co-founder.

(3) Elizabeth Rockwell, born May 22nd, 1814; married Edwin A. Austin. He died in 1843 in the East. She died in Columbus, Wis., in 1896 and is buried at Hillside.

(4) Lester R. Rockwell, born July 17th, 1816; was married to Maria E. Page, both died in Columbus, he on Jan. 18th, 1884; she, Oct. 26th, 1889.

(5) Abbyrene S. Rockwell born Aug. 21st, 1818, was married to Delos W. Dean, and lived in Lawrence, Otsego County, N. Y. She died in Columbus, Oct. 12th, 1886.

(6) Mary Rockwell, born June 3rd, 1821, was married Jan. 15th, 1849 to John R. Wheeler. They resided in or near Buffalo, N. Y. She died Oct. 12th, 1859, at Black Rock, N. Y. near Buffalo.

(7) David Henry Rockwell, born July 27th, 1823; he never married. Was associated in business with his older brother, John S. at Oconomowoc and later for himself at Burlington Jct., Mo., where he died in 1894 and was brought to Columbus for burial.

(8) Sarah J. Rockwell, born Sept. 9th, 1825; married Sept. 24th, 1853 to Amasa G. Cook, of Columbus, a lawyer and landowner. Both died here and are buried at Hillside Cemetery, Columbus.

Large Families

It will be noticed that in the above brief mention of the Rockwells, from 1641 to the coming to Columbus of several sons and daughters of Ard Starr Rockwell, in the eighteen fifties, we have mentioned only the direct line of descent from the first John to Ard. However it would be a mistake to give the impression that they were small families.

For example, we have named the four sons and four daughters of Ard and Betsey, and it will be interesting to note that Ard was one ten children born to Benjamin and Tryphena Starr Rockwell, the other nine being Kezia, Ashbel (who married Catharin Shaw, a sister of Betsey, Ard's wife) Amos, Andrew, Asahel, Rachel, Laura, Anson and Almon. It should also be noted that the given names of all the sons of Benjamin, begin with the letter "A", the significance of which might be interesting if known. Ard and five others were

born in Danbury, Conn., and the rest at Butter-nuts, N. Y. to which place the family moved in 1795.

John S. Rockwell

While John S. Rockwell never lived in Columbus, he did have business interests here, as will be shown. However he came to Milwaukee, Wisconsin territory, in 1836, accompanied, it is believed, by his brother LeGrande. They must have had some capital and thus were able to purchase land at Government prices of \$1.25 per acre, and thus, "getting in on the ground floor", were able to accumulate sizable fortunes for that period.

A Mill Is Built

From a history of Oconomowoc, we know that John S. purchased property on Oconomowoc River in 1837 and constructed the first of several dams, each in turn being washed out by high water, and erected a badly needed saw mill, and in 1839 added a "Grist Mill." It was not until 1842 that they got a good dam, guaranteed by the contractor, against wash out for a period of five years.

In 1843 he built an Inn or Hotel, and for many years it was the only hotel in Oconomowoc.

In 1850 the Milwaukee to Watertown plank road reached Oconomowoc, after a hard but successful fight led by John Rockwell and many followers. Most of them shortly became railroad minded, and became stockholders in the Milwaukee, Watertown R.R. of which John Rockwell was the first president.

Railroad Depot & Bank

In the summer of 1854 a Railroad Depot was constructed of brick made in Pugh's Brickyard, and in Dec. 1854 the first locomotive and construction train reached Oconomowoc.

In 1859 a two story brick building was built on Rockwell land, on the west side of North Main street, for the Summit Bank with a capital of \$25,000.00 with Mr. Rockwell and five of his friends as stockholders.

In 1853 the "La Belle Boot Club had been organized, one of its members being David H. Rockwell youngest brother of John, who had a sailboat named "Blue Bird".

Big New Flouring Mill

In 1855 construction was begun on a full fledged flouring mill, by John S. and his brother David and a third partner, James Luck. This mill was completed in 1857 and had grinding stones, French Burrs, to turn out 100 barrels of flour each 24 hours.

Mr. Rockwell backed the first newspaper to be published in Oconomowoc, by N. C. Hawks; the ownership was a partnership consisting of John S. Rockwell and D. W. Small. The name of the paper was Oconomowoc Free Press, and its politics Democratic. This was in the late-fifties; subsequently Mr. Hawks discontinued, and the owners leased the printing equipment to D. C. Curtis, who published the paper until 1862, when he discontinued because of enlisting in the Union Army in the second year of the Civil War. From 1862 until 1866 Oconomowoc was without a newspaper.

During all the activity, briefly mentioned above, besides much not mentioned Mr. Rockwell was prospering in the merchantile field, having early established a dry goods and merchantile store in Milwaukee, together with his brothers LeGrande and Lester R.

Rockwell Store In Columbus

John S. also had a general merchandise and produce store in Columbus, operated by agents, for he was never a resident here, so far as we can find out. Research in local paper discloses advertisement, in issue of March 15th, 1860, indicating that he had just bought at auction the entire stock of Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Boots and Shoes, Hats, Caps, etc. recently brought here by Mr. Albert Foster, and had moved them into Farnham & Allen & Old Store, naming as his agents Messrs. Sheppard & Hopkins to conduct his business here under the name of Rockwell & Co.

Research in Bank Records, show the first deposit made in the John R. Wheeler bank was dated Sept. 16th, 1861 on first page of the Ledger, for John S. Rockwell. The account was active until Nov. 1862.

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Installment No. 297

March 28, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

In the Journal-Republican of Nov. 5th, 1862, appeared the following notice. "The business heretofore carried on under the name of John S. Rockwell or Rockwell & Co., will hereafter be carried on under the name and style of Hopkins & Sawyer."

It was a general store carrying Drug Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, etc. and was located near the Union Bank. (apparently having removed from the Old Farnham Red Block).

The accompanying picture was taken while G. T. Dodge occupied the building, which once stood where the Zeidler & Alberts Furniture store now is.

While we have not examined the abstract of title, to ascertain who previous owners may have been, we feel quite sure it is the building referred to as "located near the Union Bank."

It is also our belief that it was in the left hand, narrow portion of this same building, where the sign, Dry Goods, shows on the awning, that Mr. John R. Wheeler opened up the "Union" Bank in Sept. 1861, about thirty nine years before the above picture was taken in 1900.

The edge of the front of the taller building at the left, is that what was then the Sawyer building occupied, and later bought by A. M. Bellack.

The building on the right is that now occupied by Mrs. Alice Topp, for her womans wear shop, which, when the picture was taken, was the Milinery shop of Mrs. Dering, mother of Guy V. Dering, well known sportsman and business man fifty years ago.

Anson Rockwell

An uncle of John S., a much younger brother of Ard S. Rockwell, named Anson may have at one time resided in Columbus briefly as he was financially interested here in the firm of Rockwell & Abell, who owned and operated a Plaining Mill, manufacturing Sash, Doors, Window blinds, etc.

Research shows that Mr. R. A. Abell was a son-in-law of Anson Rockwell, having married a daughter, Lucinda.

An advertisement first appeared in the local paper in August 1858 calling attention to the new machinery that had been installed in a portion of the Buxton wagon shop formerly the Spenser and Buxton wagon and plow factory (located on Water St. corner of James).

The last advertisement found was in the issue of August 31st, 1859. In later research in 1884 we find that Mr. and Mrs. Anson Rockwell of Delavan, Wis. were visitors "at the home of the late L. R. Rockwell," who will be our subject shortly.

This indicates that not only most of the family of Ard S. Rockwell, but at least one of his brothers and Ard and his wife Betsey Shaw had followed their children to Wisconsin at a later date.

Lester R. Rockwell

Lester R. Rockwell, born July 17th, 1816 at Butternuts, N. Y. was fourth child and third son of Ard S. and Betsey Shaw Rockwell.

In 1837 he emigrated to the territory of Wisconsin. It is not clear but most references indicate

that his older brothers, John S. about whom we have written and Le Grande, who became one of the earliest settlers and was in on the founding of Elkhorn, came in 1836, both settling in Milwaukee.

We do know that Lester was in Milwaukee prior to June, 1837 for we have a letter, three pages of hand written legal cap size, addressed to him at Milwaukee, Wisconsin territory, from a man who signs himself Willard, written and mailed from Bainbridge, N. Y. dated in June, 1837.

His obituary in the local paper in Jan., 1884 states that "he came to Milwaukee in the year 1837, (but gives no specific date) and together with his brothers John S. and Le Grande was engaged in the sale of dry goods in that city."

He evidently did not immediately, go to Oconomowoc with John S. or to Elkhorn with Le Grande, for his obit states that in 1844 he went to Oconomowoc to join his brother in constructing and operating a mill, thus at least inferring that he had remained in the store in Milwaukee.

Deputy U. S. Marshall

In 1845 his brother John S. was appointed United States Marshal for the territory of Wisconsin, and Lester R. himself was named his deputy and assigned to the Lead Mining Region in the southwestern part of the territory. For some years he resided at Platteville, Grant County. While there he became acquainted, and later fell in love, with Miss Maria Page, teacher of music in Platteville Academy, the predecessor of Platteville School of Mines, now Platteville Normal School or Teachers College.

Becomes A Banker

Lester R. Rockwell and Maria Page were married in 1857 and removed to Elkhorn, where he joined with his brother Le Grande and brother-in-law, John R. Wheeler in organizing a new bank, called Rockwell & Co. and later known as Rockwells Bank. Le Grand, with others had formed the Bank of Elkhorn at an earlier date, but on August 5th, 1857 he sold his interest in the Bank of Elkhorn, to be free to join with his brother and Mr. Wheeler in starting a second bank. Mr. Wheeler, however, did not become active, and move to Elkhorn until a couple of years later.

While Lester was in Platteville, and the southwestern part of the state he was very busy, evidently handling estates, selling real estate, loaning and collecting money. He held power of attorney from Daniel Wells of Milwaukee to buy and sell land for him in Iowa and Green Counties. Correspondence we have seen indicates that he knew Nelson Dewey intimately, and was well known and had many friends in that area.

He remained in the bank at Elkhorn until 1863 when he moved to Oconomowoc to settle the estate of his brother, John S. who died May 26, of that year; retaining his interest in the Elkhorn bank.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week) Comes To Columbus

Apparently it took nearly three years to close the estate for he remained in Oconomowoc until April, 1866 when he moved to Columbus to become associated with his brother-in-law, John R. Wheeler, owner, who had started the Union Bank here in Sept. 1861.

Another brother-in-law, Mr. Amasa G. Cook, a pioneer lawyer in Columbus, sold Lester Rockwell a white frame house that stood where the city hall is, in April 1866. This house had been built by Harrison S. Haskill, who sold it to Mr. Cook October 20th, 1852 when Haskill moved to Portage, having been elected county treasurer, which necessitated his moving to the newly designated county seat, from Columbus which had been county seat for four or five years.

This house was the Rockwell family home, including later, Mr. Rockwell's sister, a widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Rockwell Austin, and his mother, Mrs. Betsey Shaw Rockwell. However the record show that Mr. Rockwell sold that white frame house to Mr. A. D. Bond in August, 1872 when he acquired the Bond house, (157 N. Lewis St.) which then became known as the Rockwell house for a long, long time.

He Buys The Union Bank

The banking relationship between Mr. John R. Wheeler and Mr. Lester R. Rockwell continued until 1872 or 73 when Mr. Wheeler sold his interests in the Union Bank of Columbus to Mr. Rockwell when he went to Colorado Springs and bought a substantial interest in and became president of the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, Colo. which was about the same time that Mr. Rockwell and Mr. Bond exchanged houses.

He Buys Another Home

Mr. Rockwell soon afterward built the larger, taller front part of the house as it now appears, it having been successively the home of Dr. B. F. Bellack, J. R. Wheeler, Elton Morrison and Dr. A. J. Frederick, whose widow Mrs. Roshara Frederick now owns and occupies it.

Mr. Rockwell owned and operated the Union Bank until the time of his death January 18th, 1884 when according to the law governing private banks, it was necessary to close it for about a week so that a special administrator with banking experience could make an inventory and appraisal of the resources and liabilities, and make plans for a re-organization of the bank.

J. E. Wheeler Appointed

Mr. John E. Wheeler of La Crosse, son of John R. and father of J. R. Wheeler was appointed special administrator, whose report stated "After careful and thorough examination of the affairs of the Union Bank of Columbus, I find that the assets are more than sufficient to meet all liabilities."

The new bank opened for business Feb. 4, 1884 under the name of Farmers and Merchants Union Bank with A. G. Cook president, F. H. Rockwell, second son of John S. Rockwell, vice president, J. E. Wheeler, cashier, Ruggles S. Rockwell, assistant cashier.

The affairs of the Union Bank were wound up in due course, the depositors paid in full, and a substantial surplus left over, into the estate of Mr. L. R. Rockwell. Mr. J. E. Wheeler remained until Ruggles Rockwell was fully qualified to take over the management of the Farmers & Merchants Union Bank, with the guidance of Mr. G. W. Sheppard, permitting Mr. Wheeler to return to LaCrosse and resume his connection with the Exchange State Bank, of which he became president in 1886.

The children of Lester R. and Maria Page Rockwell were Mary Shaw, usually called Mamie, born in 1858 and died in 1892, unmarried; Lestrina Page, born in 1861 and died in 1906. Lestrina was married to Dr. B. F. Bellack, of this city; there were no children.

Ruggles S. Rockwell

Their third child and only son was Ruggles S. born in 1862, who died in 1923.

Ruggles was four years old when his parents moved to Columbus, and was therefore educated

in the schools of this city. After graduating from the High School he had two years at the University at Madison and then he entered his father's bank to learn the business, only shortly before his father's death.

Upon the re-organization and change of name of the bank to Farmers & Merchants Union Bank in 1884, Ruggles had further good training under John E. Wheeler for a short time, plus the several years of experience of Mr. George W. Sheppard, so when he had attained the necessary experience, Ruggles was advanced to cashier, with Mr. Sheppard remaining as clerk and advisor.

In 1896, the bank came back into the Wheeler family as will be noted in the story of the Wheeler family to follow shortly.

Active In Civic Affairs

Ruggles S. Rockwell was always active in Civic and social affairs, and remained an eligible bachelor until after he left Columbus.

A part of the following items about him were supplied by his second cousin J. R. Wheeler.

"Ruggles Rockwell had one of the finest tenor voices I ever heard off the stage. The year I came to Columbus (1896) before my marriage I roomed and boarded with Lessie and Bonnie (Dr. Bellack) and Ruggles and as I was familiar with the piano I could play his accompaniments and we sure had an enjoyable time. He had a fine personality and all the young people of his age were particularly fond of him and he was held in great respect by the people of the community. It is too bad that Lida Birdsey or Nora Maxwell are no longer living. They could give you a nice picture of Ruggles. He loved to hunt and was a very intimate associate of Guy Dering. At one time when I came to Columbus on a visit he had a portion of the yard screened off for a dog pen and at the time I was there he had about twenty pointers. When he came home from the bank at noon he would open the gate and let the dogs out. Like a flash they all disappeared roaming in every direction until he blew the whistle and then it seemed to rain dogs. How every one of them got back so soon I could not understand until I observed that they were getting their food in the pen. He finally had to get rid of his dogs for altho they never molested chickens they frightened them when they tore thru Aunt Jennie Cook's yard. He was very fond of her and altho she did not complain he sensed her distress and abandoned his dog enterprise.

Ruggles was also very fond of horses and had some registered trotting colts. He was a great friend of the Roys Bros. and as you know they bed the great Wheatland Onward."

Go West Young Men

Shortly after the Wheeler's re-acquired the Bank, but at a date not definitely known, Ruggles Rockwell, Frank Birdsey, Rudy Topp and several other men from Columbus, went to Idaho and took up claims from the U. S. Government, under the "Stone and Timber" Act, but subsequently sold their claims to J. R. Wheeler. All came back to Columbus except Mr. Rockwell who went farther West to Pasco, Wash.

According to his obituary in the Columbus Democrat of April 4th, 1923, "He left here in 1903, going to Sprague, Washington, and became interested in a bank.

"Later he entered the employ of the Government at Olympia, Wash., and "a few years ago" moved to Seattle, where he has since resided."

In 1909, during or shortly after the Alaska-Yukon Exposition at Seattle, he was married to a former friend from Beaver Dam, who had become a widow, Mrs. Louella Thayer of Milwaukee. At Spokane, and it was probably after his marriage that he went into Government work.

A Close Friend

One of Ruggles close friends here was Mr. Charles Sutton, and when a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Sutton, he was named Ruggles in honor of his father's close friend. A fine shot gun was presented to Charles Sutton by Ruggles Rockwell, which is now the prized possession of his namesake, Charles Ruggles Sutton. (See installment No. 164).

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



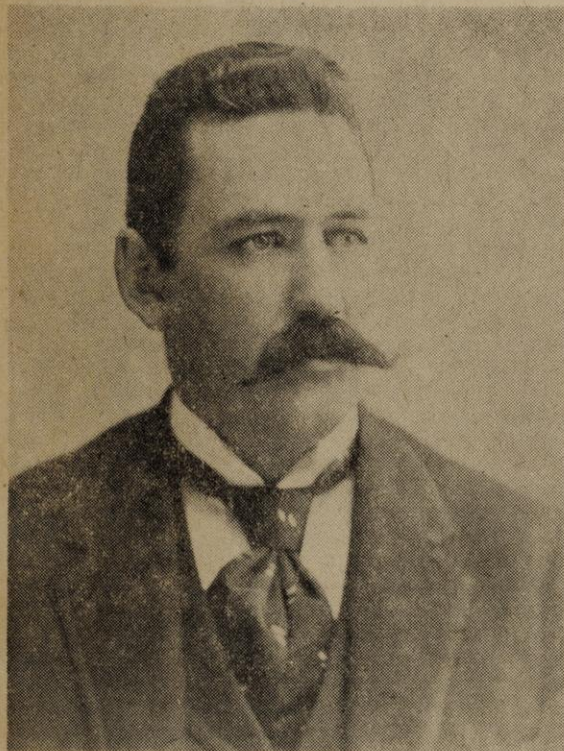
(Continued from last week)

From Mrs. Marion W. Sutton, the widow of Charles, we learn that "Mr. Rockwell left here for the west in 1902, and was not married until after the Exposition (which confirms the date given in the obituary). She states that "they were not married here and the Columbus papers carried only a brief notice of the wedding, if they carried anything at all. She (Mrs. Rockwell) was at Columbus at the time of the funeral, but left afterward, and whether she is living I know not."

The body was brought here for burial, the services being held in the Whitney chapel at Hillside at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon, April 8th, 1923.

We show here a picture of Mr. Rockwell as he appeared in the late nineteen hundreds.

We regret inability to show pictures of the older generation of Rockwells. The writer has seen "Daguerreotype" of all of them but being under glass cannot be rephotographed successfully. They were all refined intelligent people.



R. S. Rockwell

Ruggles S. Rockwell was captain of the State Champions Host Cart team, the Columbus Alert Hose Running team in 1889 (see installments 272-3 of the Story of Columbus).

He was the 13th Master of Columbus Lodge No. 75, F & A Masons, serving in 1889, 1892-3 and 4, and later in life became a 32nd Degree Mason, a district honor indeed.

An Amusing Story

An amusing story concerns a trip made by Ruggles Rockwell and his companion Frank L. Birdsey, to a Worlds Fair held in Buffalo, N. Y. shortly before the turn of the century. To break the long and somewhat uncomfortable railway trip in the coaches of that period, the favored route from Wisconsin was to take passage on a Lake steamer from Milwaukee.

It seems that Frank felt a bit squeamish, a combination of fear and sea sickness. Anyone who has

taken a Great Lakes voyage or made an Atlantic crossing has experienced a similar feeling.

So when the ship had left the harbor and got out into rough water, Frank went to his state room, took off his outer garments, and crawled into his berth in his union suit. Every time the ship swayed or rolled from side to side, with every timber squeaking, and doors rattling, Frank felt worse and worse. Several times the door rattled as if Ruggles was trying to get in, and each time Frank got out of bed to release the spring lock, he found no one there.

Spring locks on state room doors cannot be opened from the passage way, without a key, and each time the door is closed it automatically locks itself.

Finally, a harder pitch and toss came, and Frank was sure Ruggles was rattling the door. This time Frank opened the door a little wider just as a violent roll tossed him into the passage way, the door closing with a bang behind him.

An Embarrassing Moment

He skidded across the width of the passage way where he landed in the laps of three women seated on a settee. He rushed down the steps to the Purser's office and shouted "I am F. L. Birdsey, for God's sake find out my room number, get the key and let me back into my room."

Later he found out that no one was seasick, and everyone but he was having a good time.

By a strange co-incidence Mr. Rockwell and one of his close friends Frank L. Birdsey remained bachelors for many years, both married late, both died in the same year (Birdsey later in the year) and so far as known, the wives of both lived for many years after the death of the husband. Mrs. Birdsey, the former Lida Goodspeed a native of Columbus, was later married again, and died only a couple of years ago, as Mrs. Irvin.

Elizabeth Rockwell

Elizabeth Rockwell, third child and first daughter of Ard S. and Betsey Shaw Rockwell was born in Butternuts, N. Y. in May 1814 and grew up to marry Edwin A. Austin, who died in 1843. We have no knowledge as to whether there were children or not, but we do know that after the death of her sister Mary, Mrs. John R. Wheeler at Buffalo, N. Y. October 12th, 1859, Mrs. Austin took the only child of Mary to raise. The child was John E. Wheeler, father of J. R. Wheeler who supplied this bit of information.

Later in life, after the death of her husband, Ard S. Rockwell, in 1866, Betsey Shaw Rockwell came to make her home with her son Lester R. and family, Mrs. Austin followed to be with her mother, brother and family.

After her mother's death in 1875, Elizabeth Austin, usually called "aunt Libby" went to live with her youngest sister Sarah J., usually called "aunt Jennie," Mrs. A. G. Cook. Mrs. Austin died in 1896 and is buried on the Rockwell-Wheeler lot at Hillside.

Abbyrene S. Rockwell

Was the fifth child and second daughter of Ard S. and Betsey Shaw Rockwell, born in 1818 and was married to Delos W. Dean. We have no information about Mr. Dean and do not know whether she was married in New York state, or in Oconomowoc, to which place she came after her brother John S. was well established. She lived there for many years, but late in life she evidently lived in Columbus as she died here in 1886, and is buried on the family lot mentioned above.

Continued next week

Installment No. 300

April 18, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



In the early days of picture taking, time exposures of several seconds, which seemed like minutes were necessary.

This made it almost impossible to photograph a group of people successfully as some one was sure to move.

Composite picture above, showing Ard S. Rockwell and his wife Betsey Shaw Rockwell, and their four sons and four daughters is a splendid example of the method employed. A separate picture of each person was taken, and the separate pictures were then assembled and framed. The occasion was their Golden Wedding Anniversary at Elkhorn, Wis.

The children, in the order of age from left to right, center row, are John, LeGrand, Elizabeth Rockwell Austin and Lester. Bottom row, Abbyrene Rockwell Dean, Mary R. Wheeler, David Henry and Sarah Jane (Jenney) Cook.

We have previously mentioned that no Rockwell pictures were available. We are happy to have unexpectedly received the above picture from Miss Anna Rockwell, 88 years old, from Warren, Penn., a granddaughter of John S. Rockwell, to whom we are thankful.

(Continued from last week)

Mary Rockwell

Sixth child and third daughter of the Ard S. Rockwells was born in Butternuts, N. Y. June 3, 1821 and in Jan. 1849 was married to John R. Wheeler; they made their home in Tonawanda, near Buffalo, N. Y.

The couple had one child a son John E. Wheeler who after her death in 1859 in Black Rock, N. Y. was taken to raise by his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Rockwell Austin, as previously stated.

Her son John Edward Wheeler was born in Tonawanda, near Buffalo, N. Y. in October, 1850 and was therefore about nine years old when his mother died.

John Russell Wheeler

We now come to the Wheeler portion of the story of the Rockwell-Wheeler families, but before writing the life story of the above mentioned, who came to Columbus in 1861 we will go back a few generations farther and briefly sketch the ancestors of the Columbus Wheelers.

Going back three generations we find that (1) Obadiah Wheeler, born in 1732 and died in 1792, was married in 1780 to Betsey Nichols whose birth year was 1748, being therefore sixteen years younger than her husband Obadiah. The limited information available gives only what is stated; we do not know the places of birth, marriage, or death, but because the next entry on the chart of ancestry shows a son John Edward Wheeler born in 1782 at Newtown, Conn. and died in 1849, we assume Obadiah and Betsey were from a New England state, and probably Connecticut.

(2) John Edward was married Sept. 30th, 1804 to Miss Aurelia Judson whose place or date of birth we do not know and they became residents of Butternuts, New York, if indeed they were not residents there before marriage.

John Edward Wheeler and his wife Aurelia, had a son, born at Butternuts, N. Y. in 1816 to whom they gave the name of John Russell.

It should be re-stated here that in all probability there were other children born to both Obadiah, and John Edward, his son, but the records in our possession, makes no mention of them, as the chart of ancestry, a printed form, provides no space beyond a direct line of descent.

John R.

(3) John Russell Wheeler, was born in the old town of Butternuts, Otsego County, N. Y. October 31st, 1816. He received his advanced education at Filers Academy in his home town, a school somewhat noted for its excellence in that period.

Shortly after his graduation therefrom, he turned his attention to commercial pursuits which he followed through a long business career, with zeal, integrity and intelligence excelled by few.

Early in his business life about 1844 he formed a partnership with a man named Niles, of Buffalo, N. Y. in a Forwarding and Commission business, on and from the Erie Canal to various ports on the Great Lakes, through a line of steam propelled ships the firm of Niles & Wheeler had established between Buffalo and the upper lakes.

Honorable Mention

This enterprise was long remembered by business men as a successful and honorable service.

In 1855, a joint stock company was formed by the leading Forwarding Firms, and called the American Transportation Co. of which the firm of Niles & Wheeler became a part, Mr. Wheeler being chosen as Treasurer, which position he held until after the death of his beloved wife, in 1859. When he sold his interests and came west to Wisconsin, where his four brothers-in-law, John S.; LeGrand; Lester and David Henry Rockwell had come, some of them twenty years before and were all firmly established; and his wife's sister Sarah Jane, Mrs. A. G. Cook, resided in Columbus.

Locates in Elkhorn

He located, temporarily, at Elkhorn, where his brother-in-law, LeGrand Rockwell, had founded the bank of Elkhorn some years before, and had sold his interest in that bank, August 5, 1875, and

started another bank known as the Rockwell Bank, in which venture, his brother Lester Rockwell and his brother-in-law, John R. Wheeler had joined, as related earlier in the Rockwell portion of this story.

John R. Wheeler who had come west two years earlier for a brief time, joined his two brothers-in-law, in the active operation of the bank in which he had advanced an interest on the occasion of the visit mentioned.

He was a scholarly man, whose handwriting was like almost perfect Spencerian scrip, as evidenced by the neatest set of Bank Ledgers and Journals this writer has ever seen.

Perfect Penmanship

The writer has in his temporary possession a 78 page hand written manuscript in Mr. Wheelers handwriting, entitled "Upon questions relating to Physical Sciences", a perusal of which indicates that it may have been a lecture, or if not, the subject matter is proof that he was a man of unusual ability. Another assumption is that the article may have been a thesis written upon the completion of his formal education. Unfortunately the article bears no date that would help to pin point the approximate time of its composition.

After Mr. Wheeler had been at Elkhorn for two years, he came, to Columbus, where another brother-in-law, Mr. A. G. Cook, an attorney, was already well established, and where the Bank of Columbus had been, unfortunately, forced to close because of reasons beyond its power to control, a few months before, and where a bank was badly needed.

Undoubtedly, he came at the suggestion of Mr. Cook, and also undoubtedly Mr. Wheeler had made some preliminary investigation, and assured himself that here was a community, in need of banking service, which he was in position to give.

He Starts A Bank Here

His arrival here, early in Sept. 1861, was announced in the Columbus Democrat of Sept. 5th in a brief personal item by the editor who said, "John R. Wheeler, Banker, has opened an office for doing a general banking business, in Cook's building, on James street. He brings good references. See his card in another place."

His card, in an adjoining column read, "John R. Wheeler, Banker. Deposits received, Exchange, Bank Notes, Gold and Silver bought and sold. Office, A. G. Cook's building, James St."

By a strange co-incidence, in the same issue of the paper, appeared this notice, "Columbus Bank." R. W. Chadbourn is now prepared to do a general banking and exchange business at the rooms lately occupied by the Bank of Columbus. Mr. V. H. Sprague, the gentlemanly cashier of the old bank will conduct the business for Mr. C., and will be happy to receive a call from his old customers."

Thus it was that, only two months after the closing of the Bank of Columbus, this place, called the village, even though it had not yet reached the state's of a village form of government, and was still, politically, only a part of the township, had two banks, opening in the same week.

Neither bank, apparently, had any other idea than to proceed, and both started from scratch.

His Equipment

Mr. Wheelers equipment, as disclosed from the afore-mentioned books of record, consisted of the following items. "Ink, pens and holders, \$1.35; knife 90c; Two Record Books, (Leather bound Journal and Ledger) \$10.93; Letter Press and express \$8.00; Paid for Safe \$157.50; Letter Press Book, \$2.00; Blank Deposit Books, one half dozen, 75c; blank draft and note books, \$1.00.

Indicating that Mr. Wheeler, was a man of few wants, here are a few personal items that appear on the first page of expenditures. "Paid board at Elkhorn to 1st Sept. \$15.64; Paid Tooth Brush, Chicago, 13c; Expenses to Columbus, \$1.85; Paid Roundtree for drawing and recording Eddy Deed, \$12.00; Postage 60c, Express charges, 75c; Paint Brush and Melon, 40c; Printing Circulars, \$3.00; Labor on safe, \$1.00; Key \$1.00.

Continued next week

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

Lived At Cooks?

While it is not known to be a fact, we are of the opinion that since the Rockwells, Cooks and Wheelers, all related through marriages, were known to be close family friends, that Mr. Wheeler a widower, probably made his home here, at least at first, with the Cook family. This, however, was before the Cook mansion on Cooks hill, now the American Legion house, was built. The Cooks, at that time lived in a white frame house that once stood where the City Hall now stands; A house Cook acquired in 1852 from Harrison S. Haskell, who was probably the original owner, and which house A. G. Cook later sold to his brother-in-law, Lester R. Rockwell in 1866, as related in a previous installment.

Mr. Wheeler, an excellent business man, was also a man of scholarship and his habits of reading and study remained with him until near the close of his life.

He was also a lonely man, his wife having died in 1859 eleven years after their marriage, leaving an only son then nine years of age; Since a widower is in no position to raise a young child, the son, John Edward Wheeler was taken by an aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth Austin, to raise, in her home in near by Western N. Y.

Thus, with his wife dead, his only son in safe and loving hands, even though Mr. Wheeler was near relatives of his wife both in Elkhorn and Columbus, he was somewhat restless as well as verly lonely.

Another Bank

He not only operated his bank in Columbus, to which he gave the name of the Union Bank, as he was a great admirer of Abraham Lincoln and desired to see the Union preserved, although he had been an Democrat in politics, but was also interested financially and directed the policies of a bank called the St. Croix Valley Bank at Hudson, Wis.

Both of his banks were incorporated as "State Banks of issue" and both banks issued their own currency supported or backed by Bonds issued by Northern States exclusively.

When the National Bank Act was passed in 1863 excessive taxes were imposed on State Bank Currency, so both of Wheeler banks withdrew and retired their outstanding currency, surrendered their charters as State Banks, and continued to operate as Private Banks. This was accomplished without loss as their security was wholly in Bonds of Union Northern States.

Signatures on the Bank's currency indicates that Mr. A. G. Cook was actively associated with Mr. Wheeler in the operation of the bank, as Mr. Cook's signature appears as secretary and Mr. Wheeler's as president.

Marshall & Isley

Also associated with Mr. Wheeler, as stockholders and incorporators, whose names appear on the charter granted, showing a capital of \$100,000, were Samuel Marshall, Madison; Charles F. Isley, Milwaukee; and J. Adler Ellis, Madison.

It is not generally known to the public of today, that the founders of the Marshall and Isley Bank, in Milwaukee, were close associates of and stockholders in the Union Bank ninety five years ago.

Many Other Investments

With Mr. Cook in daily attendance at the bank which was located in one of his buildings, it is easy to understand how, after the bank was well established and operating smoothly, Mr. John R. Wheeler could give some attention to the St. Croix bank and various other activities in which he was interested.

It is known that he held many notes secured by mortgages on farms in Wisconsin and in Minnesota, particularly in the area around Blue Earth, where Mr. Wheeler was greatly respected and highly regarded, as was the case wherever he was known.

In 1866, Mr. Wheeler's brother-in-law, Lester R. Rockwell, as mentioned earlier in this series, came to Columbus as an associate in the Union Bank, which gave Mr. Wheeler still more time for outside matters elsewhere.

One of these ventures, about 1870 was to turn his attention to acquire large holdings in land in Kansas on which he went into cattle raising, in which he lost considerable money as a result of two storms, of blizzard proportions, in the dead of a very hard winter, his herds were almost completely destroyed, resulting in almost total loss of his investment.

Not Easily Discouraged

However he was not totally discouraged, but

gathering up the fragments of his venture in Kansas, accompanied by his son John Edward, who had graduated from college in 1870, and had joined his father here, they took the trail to Colorado where they established a sheep ranch near Colorado Springs, a venture that proved to be very successful.

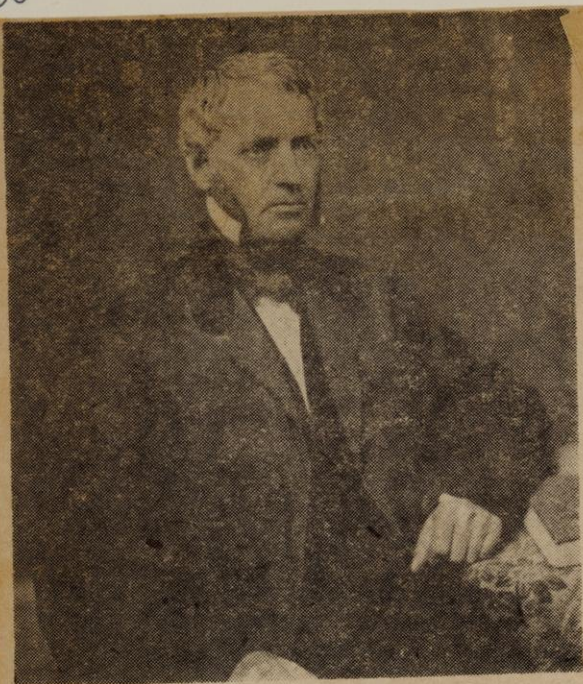
John R. Wheeler sold his interest in the Union Bank of Columbus to his partner, Lester Rockwell, about 1872 or '73 after his sheep ranch was going smoothly, and transferred his activities to Colorado Springs where he had acquired a substantial interest in the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, becoming president of the Bank.

He also had other interests, the chief of which was the re-organization of the smelting works in the city of Golden, Colorado, of which works he became president, a position which he held until failing health compelled his retirement, when he had been successful in putting the business upon a firm and prosperous basis.

After acquiring an interest in the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, he and his son sold the sheep Ranch in order to concentrate on banking as a career for John Edward, who became an assistant to, the cashier, and later became cashier.

Leave Colorado

Upon the death of his father John R., the son John E. sold the Wheeler interests in the First National, John E. and his family, then consisting of his wife and two sons, Russell and Herbert, returned to Wisconsin, locating in La Crosse, where he continued his fathers investment business, becoming president of the Exchange State Bank, there.



John R. Wheeler

John R. Wheeler, died in La Crosse, Wis. Sept. 18, 1881 at the age of 65, and is buried in Hillside cemetery, Columbus, Wisconsin. His health had begun to fail in Colorado two or three years be-

fore his death. We quote from his obituary in Columbus Democrat of Sept. 24, 1881 the last two paragraphs of an interesting and lengthy history and tribute to his memory.

"Careful and saving in all his ways, he was yet a liberal giver to all worthy objects, and no one ever approached him for aid in any meritorious objective, and went away empty handed.

A member of the Episcopal church, he did much to build up the church in places where he had lived. The edifice in this city (St. Paul's) was mostly the object of his generous and noble gifts.

It was therefor fitting that his remains should be carried to their final resting place from the portal of the little church reared by his hands."

Einokenny

Carved on his monument on the Rockwell-Wheeler lot at Hillside cemetery, after the usual vital statistics is the single word, "Einokenny". When asked the meaning of this, his grandson J. Russell Wheeler stated that while he had heard the word used in family conversation, he did not recall anything as to its implications: He also said that a spring of fine water on their property Sterlingsworth at Lauderdale Lakes, near Elkhorn, was called "Einokenny Spring."

Correspondence with the Elkhorn National Bank brought a reply that no one contacted could give any information.

Continued next week

Installment No. 303

May 9, 1957

"The Story Of COLUMBUS"

By F. A. Stare



(Continued from last week)

John Edward Wheeler

John E. Wheeler, only son of John Russell Wheeler and Mary Rockwell Wheeler, was born in Tonawanda, N. Y. in Oct., 1850. His mother died when he was nine years old, in 1859, after which he went to live with his aunt Mrs. Elizabeth, (Mrs. Edwin A.) Austin a sister of his mother, since his father's business interests were such that he was away much of the time and could not properly bring his up son, and it was indeed fortunate that a nearby aunt was desirous of becoming responsible for the up-bringing of her sisters child.

His father, saddened by the death of his wife, decided to go to Wisconsin where no less than five of his brothers-in-law were well established and prosperous, his purpose being to establish a business of his own, in which his son would become interested after finishing his education.

After Graduation

John Edward, after finishing his elementary education in Western N. Y. state entered Racine College, Racine, Wisconsin in 1867, from which he graduated in 1870. He became associated with his father in his various enterprises such as the cattle raising in Kansas and the successful sheep ranch in Colorado, which were mentioned in a previous installment. It is not definitely known, but very likely that he may have received some training in the Union Bank of Columbus under the tutelage of his father, and his uncle Lester R. Rockwell.

However that may be, when his father in 1873 sold his interest in Union Bank to his brother-in-law, Mr. Rockwell, and purchased stock of the First National Bank of Colorado Springs, Colorado, John E. became assistant cashier, which would imply that he had had some previous banking experience.

In 1874, John E. took time off to return to Wisconsin to marry Miss Alice Elizabeth Edwards of Elkhorn, whose father had been one of the banking associates of LeGrand Rockwell, in the Bank of Elkhorn, of which Mr. Julius Edwards was for many years, the president.

Miss Edwards was a native of Elkhorn, having been born there in 1851.

The young couple set up housekeeping in Colorado Springs, and here their first two children were born, J. Russell, in 1875 and Herbert E. in 1878.

John Edward, in time became cashier of the First National of Colorado Springs and also took some of the responsibility for the various Colorado operations from his father whose health had begun to fail.

The father, thus, was able to leave Colorado and return to Wisconsin, locating at La Crosse, as he had many investments in N. W. Wisconsin and S. E. Minnesota, and it was in La Crosse that John Russell, the father died in 1881.

Move To La Crosse

Shortly after his fathers death, John E. sold the Wheeler interests in Colorado, and moved to La Crosse, in order that he might carry on his fathers investment business and settle the estate.

John E. became president of the Exchange State Bank at La Crosse in 1886, which office he held for 25 years or until 1909.

Special Administrator

However, in January 1884 when his uncle Lester R. Rockwell died, it became necessary for an experienced banker to become a special administrator to assist in closing the estate; John E. Wheeler, who had all the necessary experience, was chosen, and since the Bank at La Crosse was well organized and he was in position to be away for some time, he accepted the appointment and came to Columbus for a temporary sojourn.

As stated earlier, in the Rockwell portion of this story, Mr. Wheeler found the assets more than sufficient to meet all liabilities, and leave a substantial balance to add into the Estate.

New Bank

A new bank was quickly organized to take over the banking operations; Mr. A. G. Cook, a lawyer and property owner, and at one time cashier of the Union Bank became president, F. H. Rockwell, second son of John S. Rockwell, vice president, John E. Wheeler, cashier and Ruggles Rockwell, assistant cashier. The name of the new, or re-organized bank, was Farmers and Merchants, Union Bank.

The affairs of the former Union Bank were wound up, the depositors paid in full, and Mr. Wheeler remained a short time to make sure that Ruggles Rockwell, with the able assistance of Mr. George W. Sheppard was fully qualified to take over, then returning to his own work at La Crosse.

Another of his father's investments was the La Crosse Novelty Works, a wood working plant, which John E. held on to and continued to operate, for several years.

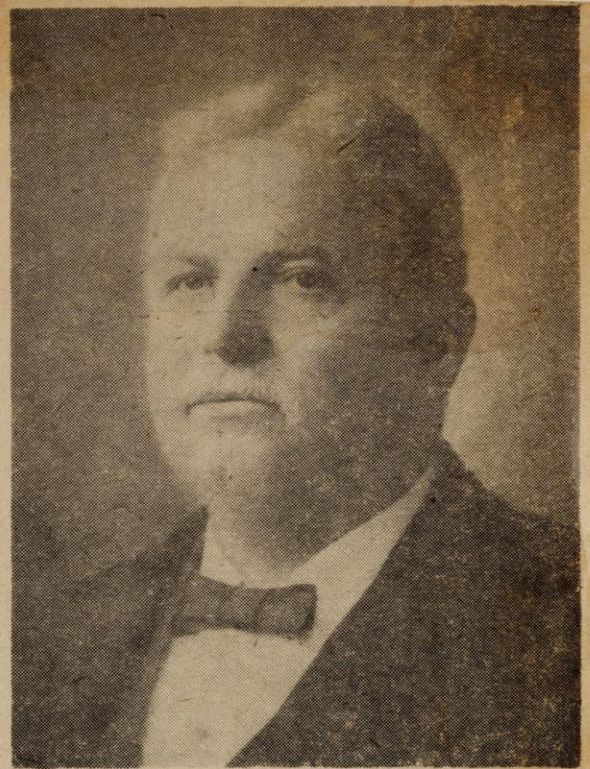
Two more children came to Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wheeler, in La Crosse, Marie Adelaide, in 1886 and Lyman Asahel in 1893.

His son J. Russell graduated from High School in 1894 and immediately went to work in the Exchange Bank of which his father was president, but a few months later thinking it would be best to have his training in some other bank where he might progress on his own merits, he entered the employ of the La Crosse National Bank (which is now the First National Bank of La Crosse), where he had the opportunity of learning the mechanics of banking and the methods employed in a larger bank.

Re-Acquires F & M Bank

In 1896 John E. had the opportunity to re-acquire the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank of Columbus, from his cousin Ruggles S. Rockwell, which opportunity he promptly seized, and thus it was that the banking business started by his father, John R. in 1861 came back into the Wheeler family.

Mr. George W. Sheppard (grandfather of W. E. Sheppard, 320 W. Prairie St.) who had been a faithful and trusted employe of the bank under two if not three different ownerships, was retained as an assistant and advisor because of his knowledge of credit and standing of people in the community.



John E. Wheeler

John Edward Wheeler became president, his son, J. Russell Wheeler, cashier and George W. Sheppard became assistant cashier. Incidentally, Mr. Sheppard who had been an early merchants here, and at one time was the agent in Columbus, of John S. Rockwell, had been City Treasurer and Tax Collector for many years, continued in the F. & M. Union Bank until 1912 when he was retired and his salary continued until his death. He was highly regarded and much beloved by the entire community. Also incidently he was one of the directors of the first bank started in Columbus, the Bank of Columbus, started in 1856 of which Wm. L. Lewis was president.

J. E. Wheeler continued living in La Crosse until he retired from the Exchange Bank and from most of his business activity, but came to Columbus often enough to keep in close touch with the affairs of the F. & M. Union Bank.

Shortly after his retirement at La Crosse, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wheeler moved to Elkhorn where they both had business and residential property that required some attention, including a summer or resort hotel at Lauderdale Lakes, near Elkhorn, known as Sterlingworth Hotel.

About 1912, having made suitable disposition of these various properties, except for holding a substantial interest the First National Bank at Elkhorn, the couple came to Columbus to live in an apartment in the Allen-Parkinson House (now the Jones Funeral Home), and took their meals with Mrs. Sarah Roberts.

Continued next week

(Continued from last week)

For some years Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wheeler had been spending a part of the winter in Florida, and finally chose Clermont, as the place they would build a home of their own. This home was built about 1916 or 17 and shortly thereafter, Mr. Wheeler died in Sept. 1917 here in Columbus.

He was buried in Elkhorn on the Wheeler-Edwards lot. Mrs. Wheeler from then on, made her home in Clermont, where she lived until her death in 1939, and is buried at Elkhorn, Wis. beside her husband.

Their daughter Marie, became Mrs. Arthur Eldred of Warren, Pa. Her husband is dead.

They had two sons and two daughters, one son lives in California, the other in Florida; one daughter in Warren, Pa., the other in Washington, D. C. After her husband died Mrs. Eldred moved to Florida making her home with her mother. She is now house-mother in a nurses home at a hospital in Towson, Maryland.

The second son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wheeler, Herbert Edwards Wheeler died in Orlando, Fla. in 1948 and the youngest son, Lyman, named for his grandfather Julius Lyman Edwards, at Clermont, Florida in 1951.

J. Russell Wheeler

The oldest son of John E. Wheeler is J. Russell Wheeler, still living in Milwaukee.

This is a good place to state that J. R. is not the namesake of his grandfather John Russell Wheeler, and that he has no first name other than

New Owner

In 1896, his father John Edward, re-acquired the Farmers & Merchants Union Bank of Columbus, the successor of the Union Bank that had been started by his father John Russell Wheeler, as related in greater detail in previous recently installments of this story.

His purpose was, no doubt, among other things, to make a place for his son in the field of banking, as his own father had made for him at Colorado Springs.

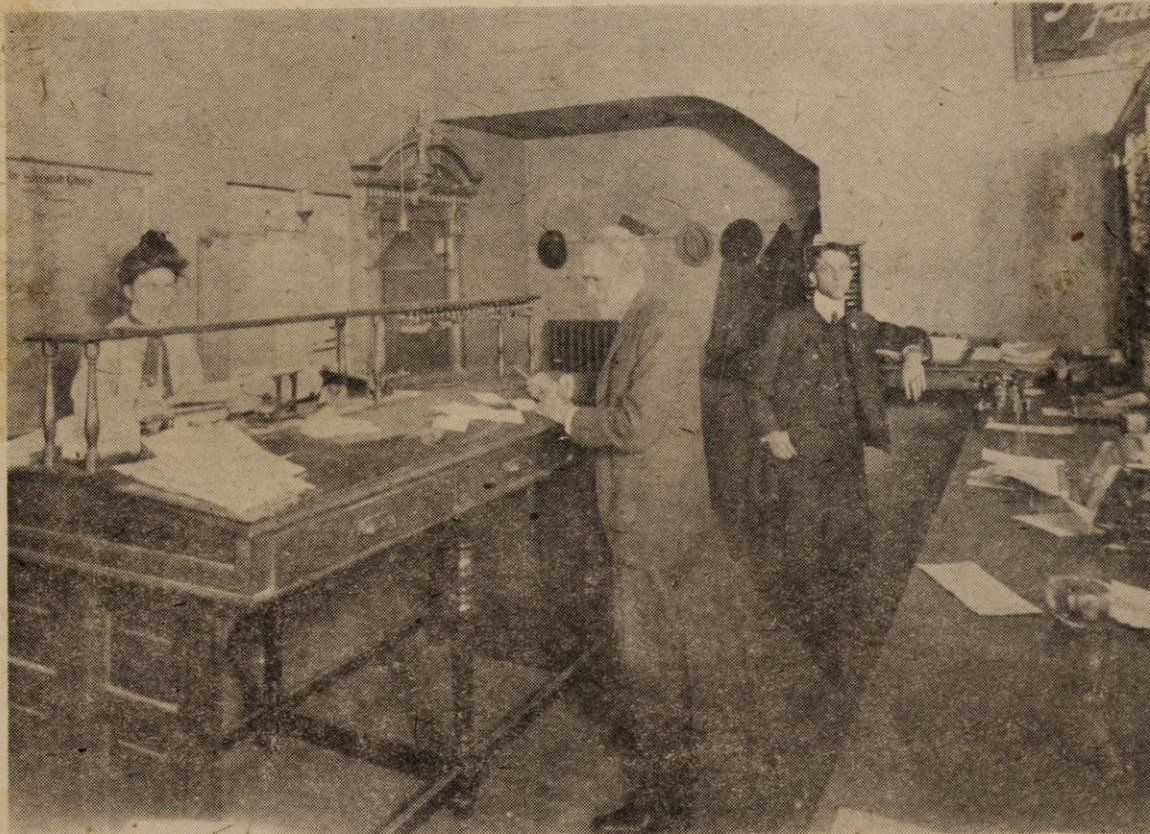
At that time, Private Banking was still prevalent in Wisconsin, although subsequently all private banks were required to change to either months he entered the employ of the La Crosse National (now the First National Bank of La Crosse) where he had the opportunity of learning the mechanics of banking, and the methods employed in sound banking practice of a larger institutions.

State or National Banks. Mr. J. E. Wheeler was president (and continued to reside in La Crosse) J. Russell Wheeler, cashier, and George W. Sheppard, assistant cashier and bookkeeper.

The bank continued as a private bank until 1903 when it was incorporated as a State Bank, with a capital of \$25,000. About this time, exact date not presently known, Miss Mary Cook, one of the two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Cook, came into the bank as bookkeeper and teller.

Old Picture Brought To Life

We show here a picture of the interior and the



the initial 'J'. The reason being that he was named for both his grandfathers, John Wheeler and Julius Edwards, and was christened 'J' (in honor of both) Russell, the latter being the same middle name as his paternal grandfather, possibly goes back to a family name among the ancestors.

J. Russell Wheeler, was born in Colorado Springs, Colo., August 20th, 1875, and was therefor about nine years old when his parents left Colorado to make their future home in La Crosse, Wis. where he received the major part of his education, graduating from high school in 1894.

He went to work in the Exchange Bank of which his father was president, but after a few

complete staff of the bank, as it was, shortly after the turn of the century.

The young lady to the left of the "stand up" desk is Miss Mary Cook; the benevolent looking man in the center being Mr. George W. Sheppard, assistant cashier; and the youthful looking cashier, J. Russell Wheeler, at the right.

The photo from which this picture was made, is re-photographed from an old print so faded as to be almost indistinguishable, which through the mysteries of modern photography, Mr. Merton Walcott, local photographer, was able to bring "to life" a picture that was almost dead.

Continued next week

The Bank had occupied the Cook building from the time it was built, and later bought it, continuing to do a banking business there until the present "Sullivan" Bank building was ready for occupancy in 1920.

The building is now the property of the Wisconsin Telephone Co. The vault door shown in the rear, is the same one, in the same location, that has served the Law firm of Brossard, Zeidler and Behl since 1920.

Bank Increases Capital

In 1917 shortly after the death of Pres. John E. Wheeler, the bank increased its capital stock to \$50,000 when a number of friends and customers became stockholders. J. Russell became President after his father's death, and continued to head the bank until 1923, when he moved to Milwaukee to give full time to the "Bankers Joint Stock Land Bank" of which he was vice-president.

In August, 1897 Russell took time out to marry Miss Anne May Knutesen, born in Lodi and kindergarten teacher at La Crosse, and set up house-keeping in Columbus.

Other Activities

While his primary interest, first last and always, was banking, still he found time for outside activities in civic, business, lodge and social affairs.

His coming to Columbus, was during a period when a large segment of young men were litterly on wheels, that of course means, bicycles, or "safeties" as distinguished from the older high wheel, four or five feet in diameter, in front and a small wheel in the rear, called bicycles. The latter were novelties, suitable only on smooth hard surfaces, and not at all fit for cross country riding. Ardent wheelmen thought nothing of riding a hundred miles in a day, when the roads were good. As a matter of fact, this writer, before the Spanish-American War, sold, groceries to retail stores, making his calls on a bicycle, carrying his samples and order book, in a wire basket fastened to the handle bars, from town to town.

He Came Under Own Power

So do not be surprised, when we tell you that when Russell Wheeler came to Columbus to become cashier of the F. & M. Bank in 1896, he made the trip from Elkhorn, on his bicycle.

He was among the first, if actually he was not the very first man in Columbus to possess an automobile, a yellow "Winton" which was promptly dubbed by the public "The Yellow Kid". This was probably about 1905.

The Canning Company

Russell was one of the group of leading citizens that organized the Columbus Canning Company. The minutes of all the several meetings prior to actual organization and election of officers, are in his hand-writing. He was a member of the Board of Directors from first to last, December, 1900 to July, 1946 when Columbus Foods Corp. (its second corporate name) merged with and became a part of Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.

He was the director, selected because he had the time and experience to qualify, to negotiate the merger, and all other active directors in charge of company operations were too busy to take time away from necessary company affairs during canning season.

Among other outside activities recalled is the Rib Lake Lumber Company in which Russell was a director, and in which several other Columbus men were financially interested.

Badger Motors

Likewise, he was active in organizing Badger Motor Car Co., 1909 to 1912, being a Director and also Treasurer of the ill-fated venture; and like all other stockholders, lost his investment, plus, he says, a substantial assessment.

Bankers Association

Russell was very active in Wisconsin Bankers Association, serving for two terms 1914 and 1915 as a member of the Executive Council, as well as

being a member of several committees, including the committee that organized the present group system.

He was elected vice president in 1915 and in 1916 to the presidency of Wisconsin Bankers Association for two years 1916-17. At the beginning of World War I, he was appointed by Gov. Phillips as a member of the State Council of Defense, and of the Food Commission as the representative of Bankers. He also served on the War Finance Committee of this State.

Banker - Farmer

A large portion of the business of the F. & M. Union Bank was, always had been, and still is with farmers and land owners, and realizing the importance of successful farming operations to the economy of this area, he became much interested in the Banker-Farmer movement. He should be credited with having done more to advance the interests of farmers toward becoming dairymen, than any other individual or bank in this area.

This attracted the attention of Bankers, and he soon found himself appointed as a charter member in the Agricultural Commission of the American Bankers Association in 1913 on which he served seven years, to 1920.

Dry Milk Co.

Almost alone in his efforts, he succeeded in bringing the Dry Milk Co. of Binghamton, N. Y. to Columbus in the early nineteen-twenties, to build the original unit of what is now the great local plant of the Borden Co.

Bankers Joint Stock Land Bank

After his removal from Columbus to Milwaukee to give his full time to Bankers Joint Stock Land Bank, all went well for a few years, but with the coming of the great depression in the late 1920's, farm mortgages all over the northern mid-west, became liabilities instead of assets, and the above mentioned Bank, along with many more of similar nature, and hundreds of investors, lost heavily.

The unfortunate stockholders, lost not only their initial investment, but sustained a statutory assessment of 100% in addition. Holders of bonds were more fortunate.

This depression was like a hurricane or a prairie fire: the officers of loaning agencies were in no way responsible for it, but were powerless to do anything to prevent the losses.

Russell, like hundreds of others, lost heavily, not only in money but in health. He resigned his position, a stunned and sick man, and retired from business life in an effort to regain his health and strength, leaving his personal affairs in the hands of his son John E. Wheeler, an investment broker in Chicago.

Move To Evanston

In 1935 Russell moved to Evanston, Ill., taking a position with Shea & Co., Chicago, Investment Councilors for banks and individuals; then later became a registered Representative of the New York Stock Exchange, employed by Winthrop, Mitchell & Co. At a still later date he was with Dempsey & Co., a Brokerage house until the fall of 1945, when he retired from business, returning to Milwaukee to reside shortly thereafter.

His Monument

At the height of his career in Columbus, the banking quarters, too small, and no possibility of enlarging efficiently in the existing building. Mr. Wheeler decided to buy the vacant lot across James St. on which to build a new building.

He had thought to build the usual conventional type of white columned Grecian Temple so frequently applied to Bank buildings, but Mrs. Wheeler had other ideas.

She had read or heard of the retired dean of the American School of Architect's, the renowned Louis H. Sullivan, who had, after his retirement, retained a few draftsmen, and maintained an office in Chicago, and had if properly approached and, if he felt like it, accepted the commission to design small country town bank buildings, that had attracted much attention.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

MAY 30, 1957

Installment No. 310



There were two in Ohio; one in Iowa; and one in Minnesota. After Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler had taken a look at pictures of some of them, and had gone to look at one, it was decided that nothing would do for the new bank building except one designed by the great master.

He must have been properly approached, for he was persuaded to come to Columbus to take a look at the site. He was so favorably impressed with the possibilities, the Library, the Monument, the City Hall, the broad boulevard (then called Broadway) that he accepted the challenge.

The result is the present home of the F & M Union Bank, the corner stone of which was laid in 1919 and the building ready for occupancy in 1920.

The building was built under the personal supervision of "the great master," by "one of the finest craftsmen Mr. Sullivan had ever worked with" (to use his own words) Mr. Carl Ibisch of Columbus.

The building, obviously too large and too expensive for a bank of the small capitalization at that time, is now 37 years later almost too small, and serious consideration is being given to increasing the floor space to the limit of the bank's property in the rear. This building is a monument to the far-sightedness of Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell Wheeler, who against many obstacles, persisted in going ahead, regardless of costs.

J. R. remained in Columbus only a few years after the bank moved in, and went to larger fields, but we know the pride both he and his wife must have in the monument they reared, from which they must derive great satisfaction.



Mrs. Wheeler

Up to this point but little has been said about Mrs. J. R. Wheeler.

She was the youngest of nine children born to Erik Knutesen and his wife Anna Petra-Nell Brunsburg, both of who came from Norway, met



J. R. Wheeler

and were married in Madison. They became parents of eight daughters and one son.

The youngest child, a daughter, was named Anna May who was born in Lodi, Wis., which had been their home for some time. The oldest four girls were married in Lodi, Rose to Ed Seville of Lodi; Tillie, to Dick Collie of Black Earth; Nora, to Herbert Merrill of Beloit; and Ada to Henry Farnham, then of Oshkosh.

The family moved to La Crosse before little Anna was twelve, and about a year later Anna went to Oshkosh to live with her sister Ada, Mrs. Farnham, where she stayed about 18 months during which time she finished 8th grade and first year in high school.

She then returned to the home of her parents in LaCrosse where she finished high school. After graduating she went to Chicago Kindergarten training School at Wilmette, now called National College of Education.

First Kindergarten In LaCrosse

At that time very few, if any public schools, had instruction below first grade classes. Anna returned to LaCrosse where she started the first private English speaking kindergarten in Wisconsin, and also formed many "mothers classes" study groups, from which kindergarten methods were eventually introduced into the school system in LaCrosse.

Mrs. Wheeler writes, "I cannot find a clipping from LaCrosse papers, about it. I had it until very recently, and put it some place, but cannot find it."

After marrying Russell Wheeler and moving to Columbus she started "mothers classes" in the study of kindergarten methods. With these study groups, in time enough favorable sentiment was generated to persuade the Board of Education to put kindergarten in our Public Schools. Mrs. Wheeler writes that Mrs. G. C. Grisim should be given credit for the accomplishment.

She was very active in community affairs and was one of the most liberal givers to worthy causes, in Columbus.

While it may not have been the first home of the Wheelers in Columbus, when the writer first came to Columbus in 1902, they lived in what was then called the "Mrs. Katie Topp" house, now and for many years the home of Mrs. Fred Brokopp, 142 South Birdsey street. Sometime, about 1908 to 1910, they acquired the Rockwell home, now the home of Mrs. Roshara Frederick, 147 N. Lewis street, where they lived until they left Columbus about 1923.

The children of the J. R. Wheeler's were, first, John Edward Wheeler, who was born in Columbus October 11, 1899.



JOHN EDWARD WHEELER

After graduating from CHS in 1916, he entered Yale University, majoring in Commerce. His work at Yale was interrupted by World War I. He entered training in Naval Aviation, finishing his ground work at Seattle just about the time of the Armistice, and before he had flight training.

However he took private lessons and obtained his license to fly, and continued in the Navy Reserve.

In World War II he was called and assigned to Fighting Squadron 19 of Admiral Halsey's Fleet in Pacific waters, as Combat Intelligence Officer with a rank of Senior Lieutenant, later becoming Lieutenant Commander.

After returning from World War I John finished his work at Yale in 1921. In 1922 he was taken on by the Continental National Bank of Chicago, one of three graduates selected to be especially trained to become bank officers. At the end of the period John had concluded that there were too many priority or seniority claims and promotion might be too slow, and having been offered twice as much salary by a brokerage firm, he left the bank for the brokerage business, which he has since followed.

Before World War II his activities were in Chicago, but during the war activities he saw much of southern California, and decided to switch to Los Angeles, where he has been engaged, as head of his own brokerage house ever since returning from service.

He was married to Miss Thelma Blossom of Indianapolis by whom he had a son, John Wheeler, in 1927 making the fifth generation of Wheelers from John Russell Wheeler who came to Columbus to start the Union Bank in 1861.

John Rockwell Wheeler

John Rockwell Wheeler is married to the former Joyce Agar of Los Angeles, and their children are Peter Agar Wheeler, 6 John Rockwell II, 5, and Mark, 2. John Rockwell Wheeler is employed in the brokerage firm owned by his father.



J. Rockwell, J. Russell, and John Edw. Wheeler

We show here a picture of three generations of living Wheelers, from left to right, John Rockwell Wheeler, J. Russell Wheeler and John Edward Wheeler.

John E. Wheeler's second marriage was to Dian Weeks Winans, and they, as well as his son and family, all live at Los Angeles, California.

Helen Wheeler

Second child of J. Russell and Anna Wheeler was Helen A. born in Columbus in 1901. She is married to Laurence H. Fuller of Milwaukee, in

which city they live. Mr. Fuller is in the field of education, and is presently, principal and teacher in Boys Technical High School, Milwaukee.

Children of the Fullers are Joan born in 1930; Carol, 1931; Charlotte, 1933; Thelma and Margaret, twins, born in 1934; and Jeffrey Rockwell born in 1941.

Their daughter, Charlotte, is married to Calvin R. Davis, an engineer with Chain Belt Co., Milwaukee. They have two children, Calvin Russell, 5, and Linda Susan, 4. They live in Brookfield, Wisconsin.

Thelma, one of the twins, is married to Theodore Shew, who is a student at Whitewater. They have a daughter, Jean Cari, one year old. Their home is in Milwaukee.

Mary Alice Wheeler

Third child of J. R. and Anna Wheeler is Mary Alice born in 1910, and is married to Carleton A.

DelMar. He is a manufacturers representative. Their home is in Falls Church, Virginia.

Having no children of their own, some years ago they adopted Jeffry Rockwell Wheeler, her nephew, son of Helen, Mrs. Fuller, born in 1941.

Conclusion

In concluding the story of the Rockwell and Wheeler families it is only fitting to repeat that the little Union Bank started in a very small way by John Russell Wheeler in 1861, with only a safe, a letterpress, a few books, pens, paper and ink. Carefully tended and nurtured, first by John R; then by the Rockwells, Lester and Ruggles; then back to John E. Wheeler, who passed it on to his son J. Russell Wheeler, who attained prominence in the field of banking in Wisconsin, culminating in the present banking building, all took place in a span of less than sixty years.

Surely the good that men do, lives after them. The banking seed planted in 1861 bore fruit aplenty in that sixty years, and has grown phenomenally every since, in spite of a setback in the panic of 1931, it has gained stature steadily, and as of December 1856, ninety five years from scratch, it has a capital structure of nearly \$340,00.00 and deposits of over \$4,500,00.00.

Both Mr. and Mrs. J. Russell Wheeler are still living as this is written; both are on the other side of four score years; both have reasonably good health, considering their advanced years.

Should any of our readers wish to write them their address is 3009 North Downer Ave., Milwaukee 11, Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wheeler

Since writing the above, we have received an excellent picture of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wheeler, taken by an outstanding photographer, Mr. John Szarkowski, in their home in Milwaukee.

Mr. Szarkowski is the author and photographer of all pictures in a recently issued book called "The Idea of Louis Sullivan" a copy of which was placed in the Columbus Library by the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank in April.

In a review of this book, on page 37 of the March, 1957, Rotarian magazine, the reviewer, John T. Frederick has this to say.

"A picture book of quite a different kind and calibre is 'The Idea of Louis Sullivan', by John Szarkowski. Essentially it is a volume of photographs of the work of Sullivan—whole buildings and details—which constituted one of the most powerful forces in the development of modern architecture, both in the United States and in other countries. These photographs are among the finest architectural photographs I have ever seen.

In their totality they constitute what I believe to be the most distinguished pictorial record of the achievement of one architect which has ever been made.

The accompanying text is largely drawn from the writings of Sullivan himself—selections at

once illuminative of the buildings and impressive themselves.

Admirably designed and printed, representing years of patient effort in the making of the photographs and a most fruitful cooperation of all who have shared in making it, this book is a delight."

Mr. Szarkowski, personally known to this writer, made several trip to Columbus to interview different officers of the F & M Bank, and was given access to private records in connection with Sullivans work. He has spent hours in the Wheeler home in Milwaukee, discussing Sullivan and his work here, his personality and his likes and dislikes, and has used, judiciously, in the prologue of his book, some of the "local color" received in his several interviews.

Another well deserved tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler.



Recent picture of J. R. and Mrs. Wheeler

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 112

JUNE 13, 1957



Bryan Spoke Here

The Cover Picture on the spring 1957 number of the Wisconsin Magazine of History, published by the State Historical Society, shows the somewhat youthful William Jennings Bryan, on the platform crowded with other people, speaking to a large assembly of people, many of whom were holding umbrellas, indicating either rain or hot sunshine.

On the interior of the front cover, we read:

"That William Jennings Bryan addressed a group of persons, a crowd, in Columbus, Wisconsin, during the campaign of 1900 was a newsworthy event and was photographed as such."

By the same token, this was an event worthy of study by historians, for, in the last analysis, political fortunes, economic fortunes, aesthetic and moral fortunes are made and lost, "on location" and in local terms, not on or in the terms of some mysterious realm called "the stream of history."

A footnote indicated that the Cover Picture, an original print, was presented to the State Historical Society, by Eugene E. Brossard of Madison, and was in the Iconographic Collection of the Society.

Our Local Paper Says

The "Columbus Democrat" as early as August 15th, 1900 announced that a Free Street Show and Carnival would be held here October 2, 3 and 4, 1900; and that Mayor David S. Rose of Milwaukee, and Robert M. LaFollette, Republican candidate for Governor, would speak, and that all of the county and state officers would be here.

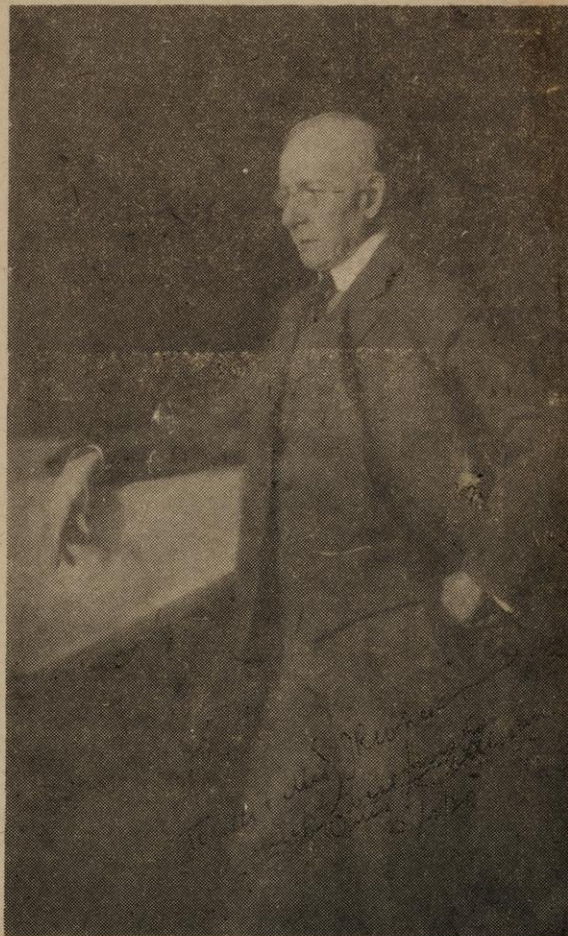
Mayor Rose, Democrat, who had gained a national reputation as an orator, was billed to speak on the second day and Mr. LaFollette on the third day.

The same issue, August 15th, carried the complete text of William J. Bryan's Indianapolis speech, on the "patent" inside pages, 4 columns, and one column of Adlai E. Stevenson, Democrat candidate for vice president.

First mention of Mr. Bryans coming here was in the "Democrat" of September 12th, which read, "Bryan Coming To Columbus". The president of the Bryan and Stevenson Club is in receipt of a letter from the Democratic State Committee,

which gives positive assurance that William Jennings Bryan will attend the Columbus Street Fair and Carnival and will speak here on the afternoon of October 3rd.

In the issue of September 26, 1900, there are two columns of details about the Street Fair and Carnival, but only one paragraph about the political aspect, which stated "The political aspect of the Fair promises to be a very big feature. The presence here of Hon. William J. Bryan (candidate for President), L. G. Bohmrich (Democrat candidate for Governor) David S. Rose and other prominent Democrats, on Wednesday, October 3rd and of Hon. Robert M. LaFollette and other prominent Republicans, on Thursday, October 4th will bring thousands to our city. Never before has occurred here a gathering of men so prominent in the affairs of nation and state as this will be, and the opportunity of listening to men of such prominence is one which one one should miss."



Louis H. Sullivan, architect of the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank here. The corner stone was laid in 1919 and was ready for occupancy in 1920. Mr. Sullivan, a retired dean of the American School of Architects, was persuaded to do the work by Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Wheeler.

The picture was inadvertently omitted when the bank story was printed.

On the editorial page of the same issue appears three quarters of a column lauding the Democratic Party and its candidates and berating "the weak and platitudinous McKinley and the men to whose un-American schemes he yields all too readily."

And a full page, six columns of Mr. Bryans Anti-Trust speech delivered in St. Louis, shortly before, on the "patent insides"; on the reverse side of the same sheet was 5¼ columns of Mr. Bryan's letter of acceptance of nomination.

On page 7 of the same issue, we take two paragraphs from three fourths of a column, as follows: "At a meeting of the Bryan and Stevenson Club of this city, a committee consisting of President John Erb, J. J. Sutton, E. E. Brossard, F. J. Hart, H. A. Lueders, Henry Berner and H. F. Krause was appointed to meet Mr. Bryan at Portage. Arriving at the depot here, he will be met by another committee consisting of Aug. Krause,

John Hasey, Julius Kruger, O. W. Trayner and H. J. Weidemann, with carriages, to conduct the guests to the stand to be erected on the school campus from where the addresses will be made.

The issue of Wednesday, October 3rd, obviously having been printed before the arrival of the special train, shows a two column wood cut of

Mr. Bryan, under which is the caption, "W. J. Bryan arrives by special train at 1:20 today", so we turn to October 10th to find particulars.

A two column heading read, "Wm. J. Bryan addresses the Multitude at Columbus. Underneath the picture, photo by Laub, the subheading says Over 10,000 People Hear the Great Democratic Leader. His speech delivered with telling effect,—much enthusiasm and great applause."

The second day of the Carnival, Democratic Day, is one which stands pre-eminent in the political annals of our beautiful city. Never before in its history has such a vast assemblage of people been gathered here. This immense gathering of people was occasioned by the coming of that intrepid defender and great expounder of constitutional liberty, William J. Bryan.

The day opened, to the great delight of everyone, with the most brilliant prospects of good weather.

The people from the surrounding country took advantage of it, and before nine o'clock the streets were crowded; by noon, the number in the city had probably reached 15,000.

The Bryan party arrived on a special train from Portage shortly before 2:00 o'clock and left for Watertown at 3.15. The Democratic Presidential candidate was accompanied by Democratic State Chairman, A. F. Warden; Louis G. Bohmrich, candidate for Governor; T. W. Patterson, candidate for Lieut. Governor; Joseph H. Woodworth, candidate for Secy. of State; August Bartz, candidate for Treasurer; Homer B. Hubbell, candidate for Supt. of Public Instruction; Robert A. Thompson, candidate for Insurance Commissioner; National Committeeman T. E. Ryan; Mayor David S. Rose of Milwaukee; Ex. Secy. of State, Thomas J. Cunningham; Ex. Atty. General, J. L. O'Connor; Edward Luckow, Congressional candidate for the Third District; W. H. Rogers and M. J. Reagn, Madison.

They were met at Portage by the committee from Columbus, John Erb, E. E. Brossard, Henry Berner (editor Democrat), H. R. Cook, Henry Loch, H. F. Kruse, F. J. Hart, and H. A. Lueders.

(continued next week)



The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 312

JUNE 27, 1957



Continued from last week

At any rate, in August, 1856, the brick house and grounds was transferred to William L. Lewis.

The front, or high portion was built that fall and faced with cream colored brick hauled from Milwaukee or Watertown by team, as the railroad did not come to Columbus until a later date, 1857.

The older portion is built, as is also the backing behind the face brick in the higher part, of home-made, hand made brick made right there and no doubt supervised by James Webster, grandfather of Winnie Webster Proctor, the only known brick maker to come to the area in its very early days.

Aside from the quarter section now entirely covered by the western half of Columbus, the 320 acres of farm land owned by James T. Lewis was acquired in several parcels and at different times as follows:

The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14 was entered by Henry A. Whitney February 10, 1848 and about a year later Lewis Ludington acquired it, selling it to James T. Lewis in June, 1850 but this, while showing earlier entry, was not Mr. Lewis' first purchase, but his fifth.

March 1, 1848 Mr. Lewis made his first entry, the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ section 14 from the United States.

July 1, 1848 he entered N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ from the U. S. He must have intended to buy and sell, for on May 15, 1848 he sold half of his first purchase to Patrick McTierney but in January, 1850 he bought it back.

January 1, 1850 he entered the W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ and the N. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ both from the U. S.

March 1, 1850 Benjamin A. Hagaman entered the S. E. $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ from the U. S. and shortly sold it to Mr. Lewis.

September 27, 1853 Mr. Lewis sold N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of N. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 14 to Matthew Lowth and Polly Lowth and in June, 1855 he re-acquired the same from the Lowth's.

This seems to have been the last sale of any portion of the 320 acres until after his death August 4, 1904, his heirs being Selden J. Lewis, Anna Lewis Dudley and Charles R. Lewis, the three being joint administrators and the only heirs.

Seldon street and Charles street are obviously named for his two sons.

While there may have been other intervening owners, it is believed that George J. Lange, who owned the so-called Governor Lewis farm for a great many years, bought it from the administrators.

William L. Lewis also became a land owner, his farm being what was long called the Deglow farm totaling nearly 300 acres in sections 1 and 2, town of Columbus on the back road to Fall River.

As far as the writer has learned from all available information, neither James T. Lewis, who served long and faithfully in almost every local, territorial and state office from school board to the governorship, or his older brother William L. Lewis, first president of the Bank of Columbus, the first bank to open in Columbus, ever lived on their respective farms, which were operated by tenants, under the guidance and supervision of the owner.

The afore mentioned James T. Lewis farm is presently owned by the Otto Yohn family.

A LESSON IN BANKING

In the course of the story of Columbus, we have several times referred to the extreme scarcity of money, and the great need for it, and in installments No. 117 and 118, August 27 and September 3, 1953, we told of the organization and opening of the "Bank of Columbus" in October, 1856.

Only 25 years ago bankers found themselves in the throes of the nation's most severe depression. Only stronger institutions survived, and the dark events of those days resulted in the Banking Acts of 1933 and 1935 and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Fifty years ago the Panic of 1907 gave rise to the Aldrich Commission, which in turn lay behind creation of the Federal Reserve System. A century ago, the country's banks, weak and disorganized, obviously were incapable of fueling the great era of industrial expansion that lay ahead. At that time, America's unique dual banking system of independent institutions, as we know it today, was about to be formed with passage of the National Banking Act a few years later, 1863.

Throughout most of this long period, widely-influctuating bond prices and constantly changing interest rates have reflected on a day-to-day basis supply and demand for capital and credit. For 20 years up to 1951 bond prices were supported, rates and yields held at a constant low level and banker concern over changes in the market and interest rate structure was almost non-existent. All of that is ended now, and the gyrations of rates, yields and bond prices in recent years emphasizes the need for keeping well-informed on current developments as well as constantly broadening an understanding of influences affecting future events.



Governor Lewis' Colonial Mansion

Upon their arrival here they were taken in charge by a committee composed of August Krause, Julius Krueger, H. J. Weidemann and John Hasey, hurried into carriage and driven directly to the school grounds.

As the procession of carriages passed the Soldiers Monument on Broadway, the one bearing Mr. Bryan was stopped, and Miss Dolly Brown (Mrs. Nelson Webster) presented the "next president of the U. S." with a fine bouquet of American Beauties.

A temporary stand had been erected, which was beautifully decorated with bunting. The pictures of Washington, Lincoln, Bryan and Stevenson, and banners bearing the words, "Stand by the Republic", "The Union Forever", and "The People's Choice", were prominently displayed.

Atty. E. E. Brossard first introduced Mr. Bohmrich, candidate for State Governor, who after speaking a few moments, said he should have the pleasure of addressing the people of Columbus at some future date. Mr. Brossard then introduced that indomitable hero, William J. Bryan, whom he very appropriately termed the "Abraham Lincoln of today".

(We omit 35 lines, concerning various issues and resume). Mr. Bryan spoke nearly an hour when he was prevented from continuing because of a terrible down-pour of rain which had been falling, rather lightly during a good share of the time he spoke. (The photograph printed last week showed several umbrellas, and that Mr. Bryan's clothing was wet.)

In spite of this fact over 5,000 people remained to grasp the hand of the great leader; There were at least 10,000 people listening to Mr. Bryan before the threatening down-pour, which drove many away to shelter.

On the afternoon train from the East, which arrived at 2 o'clock, were County Chairman, George William Bruce of Milwaukee; Mayor Grube and State Committeeman of Watertown, J. W. Moore; Judge George W. Sloan and James Malone of Juneau.

Mayor M. J. Hoven, Congressional candidate John A. Aylward, Ex. Congressman A. R. Bushnell, Dr. Clarke Gapen, all of Madison, and many other prominent Democratic politicians. They all left with the Bryan party shortly after 3 o'clock.

Republican Day at the Street Fair

The Columbus Democrat, in the same issue, belittled the Republican Day, October 4th. The weather was bad with intermittent showers. The speaking began about 2:30 in the auditorium, after waiting vainly for the weather to clear. The number that can be comfortably seated, said the paper, was between 500 and 600 (but he quoted the Republicans as claiming 1200).

Mayor Wm. C. Leitsch presided. Robert M. LaFollett apparently failed to show up, but there were four speakers, and most of the state and county officers were present.

What the editor of the Democrat printed was anything but impartial, and since bound copies of the Republican are not available locally, we can say almost nothing about the meeting.

Turning over a few more issues to that of November 7th here are the headlines:

"McKinley Once More" Republicans Carry the election for President, vice president and Congress. All of the disputed territory seems to have gone for the G.O.P.

Columbus goes Republican by 143 plurality. McKinley 363—Bryan 220 and for Governor, LaFollette 363—Bohmrich 212.

This was politics, at the grass root level, as reported by the Democratic paper, without a chance for rebuttal by the Republican paper, of 57 years ago. Copies of unbound Republicans are stored

in the Columbus Library. They will be lost to posterity, unless a few hundred dollars can be found to have them bound into book form.

—★—

James T. Lewis, lawyer, politician, and statesman, was also a farmer, although the records examined do not show that he ever lived on his farm.

The size of his farm as shown on plat books back as far as the 1873 edition indicate 320 acres lying on the south side of the section line road, all within the city limits, in section 14.

However, he also owned the NW¼ of section 13, running from present Maple avenue and the corner of James and Birdsey south to Fuller street and from Line street a quarter mile east, most of which from Lewis street east to Ludington's plat he platted and called the village of West Columbus, June 10, 1854. The remainder from Lewis north to Maple Avenue and west to Line street was platted August 8, 1856 and called Lewis' first addition to West Columbus.

This was long before Columbus proper had a village form of government, beginning in 1864, changing from a village to a city form of government ten years later, at which time the corporation limits were set at two miles west of the Dodge county line taking in the south half of sections 11 and 12; all of sections 13 and 14 and the north quarter of sections 23 and 24.

All of this platted land was part of land that had been acquired by John Hustis by entry, in February, 1839, sold to William Nelson in 1843. Nelson sold to Jerome Ingersall in 1849 and in June of 1850 J. T. Lewis brought the NW¼ of section 13 from Ludington which was undoubtedly farm land up to the time it was platted and therefore this 160 acres to the 320 farther west made a total of 480 owned by James T. Lewis.

The writer's home at 711 West James street, generally known as the William L. Lewis home, was in fact built in part by J. T. Lewis in 1854 the same year he platted his village of West Columbus, this part being the older or middle part between the higher front part with the cupola and the garage.

Where the present garage now stands, with sleeping porch above, there was at one time a series of outbuildings such as woodshed, carriage house, grainery and barn running back about to the present flower garden.

It is to be regretted that these connected outbuildings were torn down by a previous owner, Mr. John Williams, after he acquired the property in 1908 and from the heirs of whom, this writer bought the property in 1917.

The old stone building at the extreme back corner was built as a grist mill and powered by a large windmill.

The fact that this house was the home of James T. Lewis, no doubt explains the jog in Charles street, the narrowness of Charles street from James street to the alley, later widened in 1955, and the fact that the hospital grounds and the writer's lot are a block and a half long and has perhaps the only alley in town. His original plat shows very clearly, his intent to keep his grounds intact, for to have Charles street clear to James at its greater width would have brought it very close to his home and taken several of the large oak trees in the front yard.

Mr. Lewis had also doubtless made plans for this particular house to be transferred to his brother, William L. Lewis when he was to come to Columbus shortly afterward, and had, in fact even begun, or made plans for the beautiful colonial home that was sometime prior to 1856 and which stood where the Sister's home and chapel at the hospital now stands.

Because in the past three or four years, so many new readers have come to Columbus, we feel impelled to review what has been previously said on the subject, and to go back into Territorial years and give the background history of banking experience in what is now the great State of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's First Bank

The first bank in the area of what is now Wisconsin, was the Bank of Wisconsin at Green Bay, Wisconsin Territory, which was inherited from Michigan territory, of which Wisconsin was a part until it was set aside as a separate "Territory of Wisconsin" which at the time ran south into what is now Illinois, some sixty odd miles or about two rows of counties which if it had not been for a "steal" on part of certain politicians, means that Chicago and every acre west of the southern boundry of Cook county to the Mississippi River would have been in Wisconsin. But that is another story.

The bank of Wisconsin, at Green Bay, was established in 1835 with a capitalization of \$100,000 of which only a small part, perhaps not over 10 percent, was actually paid in. The bank's charter had been issued by Michigan Territory, before it had been divided into two territories.

Seven other banks were chartered by the new Territory of Wisconsin, but three of them, the Bank of Racine, the Bank of Iowa (Burlington) and the Bank of Milwaukee, were unable to raise the necessary capital. The Charter of the Bank of Prairie du Chien and that of the State Bank of Wisconsin failed to receive congressional approval and were eventually repealed by the territorial Wisconsin legislature.

A Century Of Banking In Wisconsin

This information, and some more to follow, is from a book, "A Century of Banking in Wisconsin," written by Theodore A. Anderson, and published by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, from whom the writer has standing permission to quote from any of their publications, so long as proper credit is given.

Charters for two banks were granted by the Territorial Legislature in 1836. They were the Bank of Mineral Point and the Miners Bank of Dubuque and both contained the following provisions:

"Capital of \$200,000 was authorized, ten percent of which was to be paid in upon activation and only specie (hard money, gold or silver) was to be accepted in payment for stock subscribed and issued."

"The debts of the bank, which consisted primarily of bank notes (called circulation) outstanding, were not to exceed three times the capital actually paid in."

"Interest charges on loans were limited to 7 percent."

"Reports on the condition of the banks were to be made to the legislature."

"The charters were very similar to that which the Bank of Wisconsin, at Green Bay received from Michigan Territory."

No provision was made for the pledge of specific assets as collateral for the bank notes. No system of bank examination was established to insure the banks were abiding by the provisions in their charter.

Thus the directors of a bank began operations with only their consciences to guide them.

The three territorial banks met with almost immediate disaster when the panic of 1837 hit Wisconsin, shortly after their opening, together with all the other banks of the Mid-west, excepting only the "Bank of Indiana".

A Severe Panic

"The panic was a severe one, causing immediate stoppage of almost all credit, the hoarding of gold, and resulted in widespread business failures."

"Many of Wisconsin's settlers began to wonder if the high hopes they had entertained would ever be fulfilled." Many had to live very stringently, eagerly seeking work of any kind in order to live.

Those who were living on the land, having crops and gardens and able to keep pigs and poultry, managed to get by, and felt exceedingly prosperous if they owned a single cow.

Dissolution of the territorial banks followed quickly. Henry Dodge, territorial governor promptly started investigations, as he, a Jacksonian Democrat, always was suspicious of banks, especially so since his political enemy James Doty, had helped to promote the Bank of Wisconsin and the Bank of Mineral Point.

After investigation it was reported that the banks had secretly suspended specie payments and had issued bank notes (paper money) in excess of the permitted three times their paid in capital.

In the liquidation of the banks, creditors got back only from twenty five to fifty percent of their deposits.

As a result banking was prohibited in Wisconsin by law, from 1841 to 1853, and distrust of bank notes, or any other kind of paper money, later hampered the operation of soundly managed banks, when banking again was legalized.

We again use the facts from a "Century of Banking in Wisconsin".

Despite the prohibition of banking, a certain amount of "illegal" banking was carried on by Insurance Companies, with charters which included provisions that were stretched to include banking of a sort.

Leaders in this, which did provide means of extending credit and greatly assisted in the transaction of business, were George Smith and Alexander Mitchell, both of whom came from Scotland, Smith in 1831 and Mitchell in 1838.

We will not take space to go into this, but anyone really interested will find it well worth while to look it up.

Banking Legalized

Banking in Wisconsin was again legalized by the State Legislature in the session of 1852, four years after statehood, under what was called "Free Banking" which permitted any group that complied with the regulations incorporated into the law, to establish a bank and no charter required.

But there were restrictions imposed by the Bank Comptroller, an elected official of the state.

He alone had authority to issue bank notes (paper money) and only banks which pledged security or certain types of Railroad Bonds were permitted to circulate their bank notes.

The amount of notes turned over to a bank was not to exceed either the market value or the par value of the public securities on the New York market. Bank notes secured by Railroad Bonds could not exceed 80 percent of the average market value of said bonds, and Railroad Bonds could be used as collateral on not to exceed 50 percent of a bank's note.

Only those public securities bearing 6 percent or more interest were eligible.

As additional security for holders of bank notes in circulation, the directors of a bank were required to give their personal bonds to the Bank Comptroller to the total of 25 percent of the notes in circulation.

(continued next week)



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 314

JULY 18, 1957



Eight Banks Opened

This briefly was the situation at the time banking was legalized in 1852, and by 1853 there were eight banks operating in Wisconsin, and demonstrating their ability to assist in financing the development of the state's economy.

In 1854 eleven more banks opened, making a total of 19, with loans outstanding of \$1,670,000, deposits totaling \$1,200,000 and total circulation of \$940,000, the figures being as of July 1st in each year.

By January 1st, 1856, Wisconsin banks numbered 32 with total capital of \$1,870,000; deposits \$2,810,000; circulation of \$1,060,000; and loans outstanding of \$3,770,000.

100 Years Ago

One year later, which figures include those of the Bank of Columbus, there were 50 banks, with total capital of \$2,960,000; total deposits \$3,370,000; a circulation total of \$1,700,000; and loans of \$4,930,000, which was \$1,560,000 more than the deposits.

Is it any wonder that money was scarce and interest rates high? The Bank of Columbus and private loaners advertised 12% interest paid for special deposits.

That was the situation one hundred years ago, and as of 1859 when there were 108 banks, with \$7,580,000 capital; loans of \$6,480,000 and circulation of \$4,443,000 with the outbreak of the Civil War to come two years later.

Banking Laws Deficient

"Despite the important contributions that state banking had made to Wisconsin's economic growth in the 1850's, it became apparent that the banking laws were deficient in many ways.

"The bank comptroller had no power to determine whether the banks were complying with the law, whether their capital had actually been paid in, or even whether they had a regular place of business.

"The places of business listed by some banks could not be found on the maps; in fact, many had placed their redemption centers in impassable swamps or dense forests through which no one would wish to carry large sums of money and to make matters worse, many of the banks were open only on certain days of the week, or it may be added, some kept very irregular hours and frequently were not open at all.

First Bank in Columbia County

The Columbia County bank was opened in Portage in 1853, organized by Samuel Marshall and Charles F. Ilsley, founders of the Marshall and Ilsley Bank of Milwaukee. Harrison S. Haskell, a former resident of Columbus, who had moved to Portage a few years before, when the county seat was moved from Columbus to Portage, he being county treasurer, became cashier of the bank. While the bank was organized in 1853, it was not incorporated until May 1, 1854, with a capital of \$25,000.

In 1855 Mr. Haskell sold his interests to Mr. F. S. Ilsley who became cashier. In 1858 F. S. Ilsley sold out and in 1860 both Mr. Charles F. Ilsley and Mr. Marshall, sold their entire interests to others.

The bank continued to operate with frequent changes of ownership and management, until the panic of 1873 forced the bank to close and go into receivership and never opened again.

Bank of Columbus

Getting back to our first bank, first informa-

tion regarding the possibility of a bank here, appeared in the Journal- issue of October 2nd, 1856 reading as follows — "Mr. C. C. Barnes, the gentleman who established the bank at Waukesha, and also at Fox Lake, is now in this village making preparations for the establishment of a bank here.

Such an institution is needed in this place, and Mr. Barnes knows his business and will do it right. His references are of the best kind in Milwaukee, Madison and elsewhere, and implicit-confidence may be placed in his honesty and ability."

Apparently Mr. Barnes was a promoter of banks, a man of experience, and of good reputation, and possessed of good letters of recommendation from other banks which he had organized, and after some time, enough to teach and train a cashier, he would sell his interest and move on to organize another bank in some place that needed one.

He kept in contact with the local editor as several more items, insubsequent issues would indicate, and in the issue of Dec. 18th, 1856, the following news item appeared, "Bank of Columbus". This institution is now in full operation, and we learn, is doing well. The Messrs. Barnes are gentlemanly in their intercourse with those who deal with them and their character for uprightness is unimpeachable, and we can say without hesitation that they can be implicitly relied on as honest bankers.

The rest of the officers and directors are all known to our citizens as well as to us:

In the same issue appeared the following advertisement.

"Bank of Columbus"

Columbus Wisconsin
Over J. E. Elliott's Store

This bank recently organized under the banking laws of Wisconsin, is now prepared to do a General Banking Business.

Special attention given to Notes, Drafts, & C, and remittances promptly made at the lowest rates of exchange. Drafts and Bills of Exchange Cashied at all times. Exchange, Land Warrants, Gold and Silver bought and sold.

References

M. S. Scott, Esq., Cashier, Milwaukee
Alex Mitchell, Milwaukee
E. Kraemer, Milwaukee
Messrs. H. A. Tucker & Co., Chicago
F. Granger Adams, Chicago
Bank of Naperville, Naperville, Illinois
Messrs. Van Vlied, Read & Dreaad, New York City.
E. J. Oakley, Cashier, Merchants Exchange Bank, N. Y. City.

J. A. Ellis, Cashier, State Bank of Madison.

Board of Directors

William L. Lewis	A. G. Cook
G. W. Shepard	Peter Wertz
A. P. Birdsey	Benj. Campbell
C. C. Barnes	

Officers

William L. Lewis, president
C. C. Barnes, vice president
Jas. C. Barnes, cashier

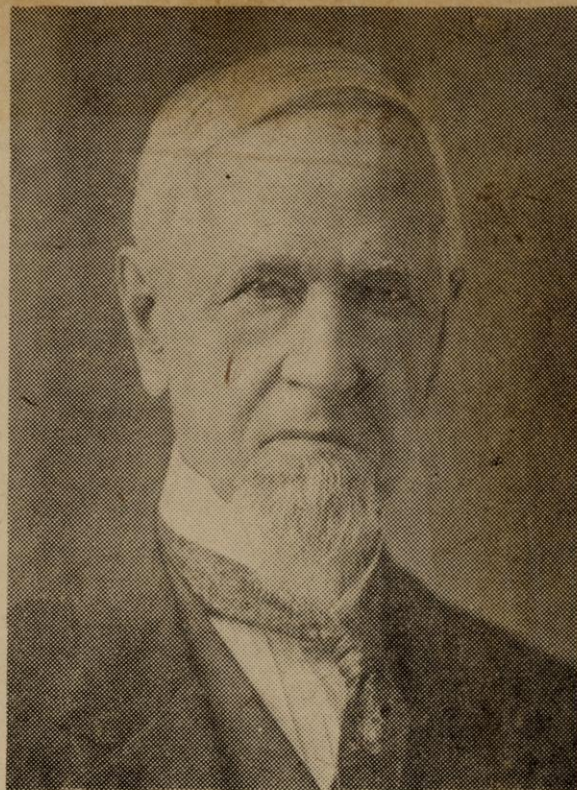
Office hours from 9 to 12 and from 1 to 4

Next item concerning the bank was an advertisement in the issue of Dec. 18th, 1856 as follows:

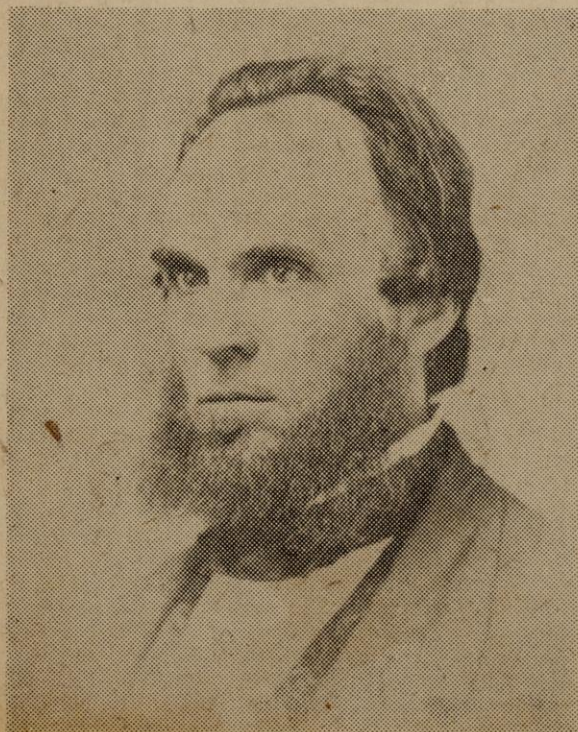
(continued next week)



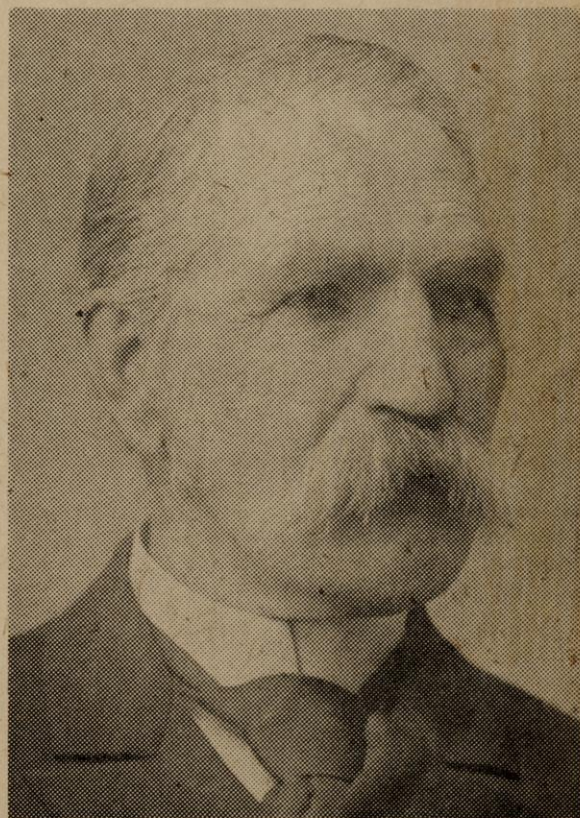
G. W. Sheppard



Willard Scott jr.



William L. Lewis



A. G. Cook



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 315

July 25, 1957



It was March 10, 1857 before the paper mentioned the Bank Notes issued, under the heading of **Description of Bank Bills of Bank of Columbus**

"We have handled a few of these bills and have been permitted, by our creditors to retain them long enough to give a description of them, which is as follows:

\$1.00 Vignette, in the center the landing of Columbus; on the left a likeness of Washington; on the right the Coat of Arms of Washington (Comptrollers die).

\$2.00 Vignette, in the center a surveying party; on the left a likeness of Columbus; on the right the same as the \$1.00's.

\$5.00 Vignette, in the center a family of pilgrims at prayer, with Indians viewing them from behind the canvas of which their tent is made; on the left an Indian on horseback with a spear in his hand; on the right the same as the \$1.00 and \$2.00 bills.

Such is the description of the bills of the Bank of Columbus of which we hope our readers will get a good many and be able to keep them long enough to make themselves thoroughly acquainted with their features so that they will not be imposed by counterfeits.

(Editors note) the fact that the reverse sides, or backs of the bills were not mentioned, is because at that time and even later the backs were blank as is the case with bills of several other banks similar periods that we have seen.

A New Coin

In the issue of March 17th, the editor prints a description of a new one cent coin as follows:

"The editor of the Madison State Journal has been so fortunate as to get hold of one of the new 'cents' and the following is the description which he gives of the same; 'It is about the size of a quarter eagle but somewhat thicker, with the words 'one cent' surrounded by a wreath on one side, and a bird somewhat resembling a mud hen in the act of leaving her nest, with the words 'U. S. of America, 1856, on the other.

The color of the new coin is that of a halfbreed Indiana-neither red or white, but a cross between the two.

It is a handsomely executed coin, all but the bird spoken of, and will be received doubtless, with popular favor immediately.

BANK LOCATION

The bank conducted its business on the second floor of a building still standing, at 125 South Ludington, now belonging to H. C. Beck and housing the Bouquet Shoope.

A year or so later, after Lucius Fuller had built the Fuller building, now the Harry Eichberg Shoe store, the bank moved its location into the second story over Fullers store, and while operating there in 1860 built a bank building on James St., occupying about half the width of the present First National Bank, into which they moved when their building was finished.

The exact dates of these changes are not known as yet, although subsequent news items in the old newspapers will doubtless disclose this information.

We understand that Mr. C. C. Barnes never made his home in Columbus, but Jas. Barnes, the cashier surely must have. However after two or three years, the Messrs. Barnes sold out to Willard Scott jr. and Vosburg Sprague, both of Naperville, Ill., who conducted banking operations until some time in 1861 when they were forced to close the doors and this particular bank ceased to exist.

Wm. L. Lewis president, Willard Scott jr. vice president, Vosburg Sprague cashier and Martin J. Lewis, asst. cashier were the officers when the bank closed. (See page 562 Jones history of Columbia County).

Prior to the opening of the Bank of Columbus, the only money that could be borrowed was from private individuals; according to Butterfields history of Columbia County, Isiah Robinson carried on a private exchange, where he loaned some money, in connection with his profession as a lawyer, but only in a small way in keeping with the times

The second private loaner of which we have record was R. W. Chadbourn, who came here in 1849, (see installment No. 40) and engaged in the real estate and insurance business and dealt in land warrants. Later he became justice of the peace, and continued in the business of private loans.

When Scott & Sprague built the bank building Mr. R. W. Chadbourn engaged office rooms above the bank; and some time after the failure of the bank, Mr. Chadbourn in Sept. 1861 rented the banking quarters and opened a private banking institution, and in 1863 his private bank was organized under the National Banking Law as the First National Bank of Columbus being the 178th bank in the U. S. to become a National Bank.

Also in Sept. of 1861 Mr. John R. Wheeler opened another bank in Columbus; The name given to this bank at that time was "The Union Bank" for Mr. Wheeler was an ardent admirer of Abraham Lincoln and the Union and it was in expression of his support that he named his bank the "Union" bank and not because of a union of banks, as many people imagine.

No pictures of the Messrs. Barnes or Sprague are available, but we show here, a picture of William L. Lewis, president; A. G. Cook and G. W. Sheppard, two of the original board of directors, and Willard Scott jr. vice president of the Bank of Columbus.

During the period the Bank of Columbus was operating occasional references on money matters have been found in the Journal. To illustrate here is a reproduction of a small advertisement one column wide and two inches or fifteen lines in depth, March 3, 1857. "R. W. Chadbourn's Banking and Exchange Office, Columbus, Wisconsin. Foreign and Domestic Exchange bought and sold; Collections made and promptly remitted, less current exchange. Approved mortgages and notes, and securities purchased and negotiated. Land attention given to the sale of Real Estate, and to Warrants bought, sold and relocated. Particular conveyancing. On special deposits 12 per cent interest allowed.

Money Was Scarce

This item indicates an acute shortage of money in circulation and consequent strong demand from borrowers. "Special Deposits" were what banks of today call "Time Deposits" to be left on deposit for a stated length of time at interest, which the banker was free to loan at a somewhat higher rate of interest than the 12% mentioned in the advertisement noted, which ran unchanged for several months.

In the issue of July 7, 1857 the Bank of Columbus had a four inch ad describing its General Banking business, its many references, its Board of Directors and officers and a prominent line in large type reading "12 percent interest allowed on special deposits.

The ad ran for several weeks.

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 316

August 1, 1957



Trouble Ahead

Indicating that banks in various states were having trouble, in the Journal of October 6, 1857 nearly 100 years ago, there is published about three fourths of a column of names of banks, under a heading of "Broken and Descended Banks". Not wishing to enumerate them because of space limitation, we will show them by states, Maine 3, Vermont 2, Rhode Island 7, Conn. 8, New York 24, New Jersey 7, Penn. 7, Maryland 4, Virginia 1, Ohio 6, Mich. 2, Ill. 3. All banks in Indiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Nebraska, District of Columbia 2, Canada 1 and two in Wisconsin Farmers Bank, Hudson and the Waupun Bank.

Publication of such lists in local papers, of which this was the first locally, was to warn Business men and bankers alike, not to accept banknotes issued by any bank on the list.

The issue of October 27, 1857 contains a list of 16 banks in New York state that were closed and in liquidation. And in a subsequent issue appeared a list of banks that had been able to re-open after bolstering up their resources.

As of 1861

Skipping, the intervening years and resuming research on 1861, we note the issue of April 11 gives a list of 42 Wisconsin banks, the currency of which had been ruled out by Chicago banks and brokers, as undesirable to hold, and would no longer be accepted. The Bank of Columbus was not on the list of undesirables.

In the same issue of March 7, 1861, we find this item concerning the Bank of Columbus.

"We have heard several inquires about the condition of the bank located in this village. To answer these questions and to give our readers a correct idea of the condition of the bank, we copy the following statements from the annual report of the bank comptroller for 1860:

Securities and Circulation

Louisiana (6's)	\$14,000
Illinois (6's)	28,000
Tennessee (6's)	7,000
Missouri (6's)	28,000
Specia (6's)	1,050
	\$78,800
Circulation	71,512

Bondsmen and Peralty of Bond

Wm. Lewis	
V. H. Sprague	18,750
Willard Scott, jr.	

Resources

Loans and Discounts	\$71,188.24
Specie	2,251.37
Cash Items	678.50
Real Estate	1,109.15
Loan and expense account	448.89
Bills of Solvent banks on hand	8,761.00
Due from Banks	8,432.08
Total Resources	\$171,669.19

Liabilities

Capital	\$75,000
Registered notes in circulation	68,574
Due to Depositors on demand	20,798
Due to others	7,288
Total Liabilities	\$171,669.10

It will be seen from the above statement that the finances of the Bank are in sound condition, and that the securities is based mainly on Illinois and Missouri Stock (?), which, even at present day excited state of affairs, are considered perfectly safe.

The officers of the Bank inform us that the securities deposited with the Bank Comptroller stands today as follows:"

(March 7th)

Specia	\$19,240.25
Illinois (6's)	5,250.00
Missouri (6's)	28,000.00
Louisiana (6's)	14,000.00
Tennessee (6's)	7,000.00
California (7's)	3,000.00
	\$76,490.25
Circulation	\$66,852.00

Documents of Interests

We find in the files of the Union Bank, a number of documents and papers of interest, one in particular was a printed page from which we quote portions as follows: "Milwaukee, April 26, 1861. At a meeting of the Banks and Bankers of

the State of Wisconsin, held at the Newhall House, on the evening of the 25th, and the morning of the 26th inst., the following agreement and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

The undersigned Banks and Bankers of the State of Wisconsin, believing the following named Banks to be sound, and well secured, either by state stocks or individual responsibility, or both, do hereby agree to continue to receive and pay out their issues until the first day of December next, when the amended Banking law will go into effect.

There were 70 banks listed with the Bank of Columbus, being second on the list, together with the name of the cashier Vosburg Sprague.

The concluding sentence was a "Resolution, that banks not included in the above lists, upon making their public securities, equal in value to 95 percent, of their circulation respectively, will be received on the same footing as the Banks above mentioned." Alex Mitchell, President and Chas. F. Ilsley, secretary.

The Banking Law of 1852, previously mentioned, "was devoted largely to the regulation of bank notes." and "the only public securities eligible for deposit (in support of bank notes in circulation) were those paying 6 per cent or more."

As of Oct. 1, 1860, "three fourths of all collateral behind Wisconsin notes in circulation, consisted of securities of southern states, because they could be purchased below par and hence offered the highest yield. The strong likelihood of secession therefore threatened heavy financial losses throughout Wisconsin.

"Within a few weeks of Lincoln's election South Carolina withdrew from the Union, and by Feb. 1861 six other states followed.

"The Bank comptroller forbade the use of Southern Securities as collateral for future issues of bank notes, and made depreciation levies of 2 and 6 per cent, respectively on Missouri and Virginia six per cent bonds."

"The comptroller intended to issue a third levy in Feb. 1861, but in view of the obvious inability of Wisconsin banks to meet it, the legislature unanimously passed a resolution that the comptroller refrain from calling for additional securities until it had time to provide relief for the banks. Otherwise, the comptroller believed three fourths of Wisconsin banks would fail."

Value of Bond Declines

"As of Jan. 1861, the six percent bonds of Missouri and Tennessee whose securities constituted the major part of the backing for bank notes, had fallen to 67 and 75 respectively and by June the decline had reached 37 and 27.

At the height of the crisis in April, 1861, the legislature passed two acts designed to strengthen the position of the holders of bank notes, which were passed as an expedient in a time of crisis.

As of then, Chicago banks had discredited the bank notes of 40 Wisconsin banks by refusing to accept them for discount. There was danger that all Wisconsin currency would be discredited for it had depreciated to about 50 cents on the dollars and the end was not in sight.

The rapid fall in the prices of southern securities in the spring of 1861 was the reason for the meeting of Wisconsin Banks and Bankers in Milwaukee April 26 which we have previously mentioned.

The securities held as backing of the circulation of the 70 banks which considered themselves and each other sound, had also shrunk in value, and their show of confidence was largely for effect, for on "the basis of the value of the securities behind the notes, almost half of the "good" currency was worth only about fifty cents on the dollar. However since the vital sections of the banking law of 1852 had been temporarily suspended, the main criterion of the value of the currency was its acceptability."

"On June 3, 1861 the comptroller issued a depreciation levy of 8 per cent on southern securities. It came as no surprise that fifty eight Wisconsin banks failed to respond and that eighteen of them were on the accredited list of the 70 (self approved) banks.

Ten of the eighteen found it necessary to close their doors.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 317

August 8, 1957



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PLEDGE BROKEN

"The Milwaukee bankers soon found it necessary to break the pledge of mutual assistance in which they had joined on April 26th, 1861. Many of the seventy banks whose notes the Milwaukee banks had declared to be sound, had been secretly hoarding the good notes and sending the weakest ones to Milwaukee for redemption contrary to the agreement. Business firms were depositing their "bad" notes and withholding their good ones.

"Threatened with ruinous losses, the Milwaukee bankers tried to save themselves by refusing to accept the notes of the ten discredited banks."

"The repudiation of their pledge was not published until the close of business on Saturday, June 22, 1861 by which time most workers had been paid with the discredited notes. Some were paid with discredited notes even after the repudiation had been made public.

MOB DISORDERS

Naturally they were angry when they learned of their losses. Their resentment continued to mount over the week end, and on Monday a crowd assembled on Milwaukee's North side. Proceeded by a band, it marched to the business centers. When they arrived in the neighborhood of the Wisconsin Marine and Fire Insurance Company, Alexander Mitchell and the Mayor tried to restore order but were hooted down.

The mob became violent, breaking windows and burning office furniture until the state militia arrived and put a stop to the vandalism. Again on July 1 a contingent of 500 farmers and laborers marched to the business center, but they were quickly dispersed by troops."

STRONG MEN PREVAIL

Largely through measures taken by a few of the really strong men, headed by Alexander Mitchell, and the state banking comptroller, and in spite of a continuation of falling values of Southern securities, which were disposed of with great difficulty, by July 1861, the currency crisis began to diminish. Reorganization of the securities backing up bank notes had strengthened the circulation of many banks, but in August of 1861 most Wisconsin currency was still being discounted at around 5% in New York money markets, where as a few months earlier the discount was often as high as 15%, and Wisconsin bonds that were priced at 70 in New York were still being used at par in Wisconsin to back up bank notes.

Somewhere about this time Federal greenbacks began to circulate, which took the pressure off of banks notes, thus providing enough currency needed for economically sound expansion.

In Feb. 1863, Congress established the National banking system wherein United States Bonds were required to take the place of State Bonds to support currency. The State Banks held large amounts of bonds of various states which they would have to sell (at a loss) to raise funds to buy United States Bonds, so state bankers saw little reason to seek National Charters, inasmuch as National Banks were subjected to greater limitations in issuing notes, were subjected to periodic examinations and could not loan on real estate.

The first bank in Wisconsin to join the National system was the prominent Farmers and Millers Bank of Milwaukee, which became the First Wisconsin National Bank, in Sept. 1863.

The R. W. Chadbourn Bank of Columbus, which he opened in Sept. 1861 became a National Bank in Sept. 1863 Number 178-meaning that the The First National of Columbus, was the one hundred seventy eighth National Bank in the United States.

MANY BANKS RETIRED CIRCULATION

Congress became dissatisfied with the rate of growth of the National Banking system, and in order to speed it up levied a tax of 10% on all banks which issued or paid out (put into circulation) state bank notes. In anticipation of some such move, several State Banks in Wisconsin, including the Union Bank of Columbus, which was opened in Sept. 1861 by J. R. Wheeler, surrendered their state charter, became private banks, and retired their circulation, and gradually disposed of their State Bonds, without loss and in many cases made a profit on the deal.

Let us now return to the local situation. The Bank of Columbus, one of the 70 banks in Wisconsin that called themselves and each other, sound as of April 26th, 1861 continued to operate for some weeks longer but when the comptroller called for a levy of 8 percent on June 3rd, there were 58 banks that were unable to comply, 18 of which were on the lists of 70 supposedly good banks.

Whether the Bank of Columbus was able, and did comply is not definitely known, a search of the local newspaper finds no mention.

However it is believed that the Bank of Columbus was not one of the ten (out of the 18) that closed their doors immediately, although it is assumed that the Bank of Columbus was one of the eighteen.

The local papers of June 20th 1861 contained two items, one as follows, "The Bank of Columbus closed its doors on Monday the 17th inst. much to the regret of all our business men who feel the need of a banking institution at this place.

We are not advised at present of the precise condition of affairs at the bank, but we have the most unquestioning confidence that the officers will do all in their power to save depositors and others from loss. We may be able next week or at some future time to state the liabilities and assets of the bank."

The other reference was in the form of a letter to the Editor, by someone calling himself "Mud-sill", who asked several questions, one of which was, "I want also to ask those who took bills which were at par in Milwaukee and allowed less than face for them; as low, even as 45 percent, if they are willing to make up the loss to their victims? Or would they prefer the reputation of the village to suffer by an act which was so decidedly premature." We have carefully searched every issue of the Journal, from June 1861 which recorded the closing of the Bank of Columbus, up to that of Sept. 5th which records the opening of two banks, that of Mr. R. W. Chadbourn's, in the quarters formerly occupied by the Bank of Columbus; and the Union Bank, by Mr. John R. Wheeler in one of Mr. A. G. Cook's buildings, and have found not a single word mentioning the closed bank.

We trust that this review of the situation in regard to banking in Wisconsin, and especially in Columbus, in the period reviewed, will be of interest to our readers.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installation No. 318

August 15, 1957



RUMBLINGS OF WAR

Many of the regular readers of The "Story of Columbus" are also readers of "95 Years Ago" in an adjoining column on the same page, which consists of extracts, taken verbatim from the local papers, mostly brief news items.

Those of you who do read the "95 Years Ago", will have noticed that in almost every issue there has been, for the past year or so, items concerning the war as it affected our citizens of that time.

Thus it will be that quite often items will in the future be found in the column of "95 Years Ago" pertaining to the war.

A WIDER AREA

So we will now undertake to write a series of stories in The "Story of Columbus", covering briefly from a more widely spread point of view, reaching out far beyond Columbus and the area, as a background of general information pertaining to the Civil War and Wisconsin's part of that great struggle.

For that purpose we will search for material in published records, and of course, give credit to such publications.

CARL SCHURZ

For example from a recently published 50 page brochure called "To Have Seen A Century" in honor of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company's 100th anniversary, that company having started business in the latter part of 1857 at Janesville, but moving its activities to Milwaukee two years later, we find the Carl Schurz, a young German, newly arrived in Wisconsin, in writing back home to his wife, used these words, "An endlessly fresh spirit surges through this land. Wherever you direct your gaze something great can be seen developing." Carl Schurz was to become one of Wisconsin's distinguished statesman and citizens.

What has this to do with the background leading to the Civil War? Very much as we will see.

LINCOLN NOMINATED

From the same fascinating little booklet we note, "In 1860, the Wisconsin-born Republican party nominated Abraham Lincoln as its candidate for the presidency, in Chicago.

"On July 2nd, 1861, the 1st Wisconsin Infantry skirmished with Confederate forces at Falling Waters, Virginia-the first action by a Wisconsin unit in the Civil War. Five men from this area were in Co G, Wis. 1st VOL. INF. T.

They were Lansing Williams (father of Ira Williams), Harvey K. Dodge, Charles A. Searle, Adison S. Gardner, and Oscar Bordman. Eighty five thousand Wisconsin men served in the Civil War about twelve thousand of them died, more than Wisconsin has lost in any other war."

BACK HOME

"On the home scene there were politics and draft riots. In 1861 there was a financial crisis when, because of their holdings in the worthless banks of southern states, two-thirds of Wisconsin's 109 banks were faced with ruin. In Milwaukee mobs of workmen stormed the banks. In 1862, as evidence of prolonged tensions and frayed nerves, there was even an Indian scare in which, with no hostel Indians nearer than Minnesota-and few there-panic spread over Wisconsin; and the Milwaukee militia took to the field, and the war between the states dragged on, brother against brother, with its blood shed, its heartbreak and its desolation."

SCHURZ, A REVOLUTIONIST

The afore-mentioned Carl Schurz, as a young student in Germany became imbued with the idea that the existing order in Germany was not for him.

As a graduate student at the University at Bonn he had participated in the Prussian revolution of 1848 and had become a marked man; and a year later in another outburst he escaped from a fortress in which the counter-revolutionists were besieged, making his escape through a sewer, found refuge in a peasant's tool shed, thus escaping capture by Royal Soldiers, and sure death before a firing squad had he been found.

From Austin's "Wisconsin's Story" we also learn that after escape and brief exile in Switzerland he made his way back to Prussia under an assumed name and rescued his friend the revolutionary leader Gottfried Kinkel from Spandau prison, the two then successfully making their way

to England. Schurz's fiance Margarethe Meyer of Hamburg joined him in England and there they were married in July, 1852. He decided they would leave Europe and go to America. His reasons, as stated in a letter to his wife's brother in Hamburg said, "By and by I might have a good living here in England. But citizenship in England, for an alien, is merely formal.

What I am looking for in America is not only personal freedom, but a chance to gain full legal citizenship. If I cannot be the citizen of a free Germany, then I would at least be a citizen of ree America."

HE COMES TO AMERICA

Still quoting from Austin, "The Schurzes landed in New York in Sept. 1852 and shortly went to Philadelphia, where they lived until March, 1855. Schurz learned English with remarkable speed. He jotted down English phrases and their German equivalents in scraps of paper, stuffed his pockets full of them, and drew one out to study whenever he had a spare moment.

Money, was a nagging worry for Schurz, and the West beckoned as a land of promise. Alluring word pictures of Wisconsin had circulated widely through his homeland. A cousin and an uncle had already settled in Watertown, and every boat that docked at Milwaukee brought dozens more of their countrymen to take up land, or work at their trade in Wisconsin."

Schurz came to Wisconsin on an exploratory trip in 1854, a year in which 16,000 Germans came to the state and Watertown got so many of them that it became Wisconsin's second largest city; population around 10,000."

HIS UNCLE LIVED IN COLUMBUS

As a matter of fact an uncle of Carl Schurz, Jacob Jussen, together with his family and a nephew Louis Yard came to Columbus in 1848 and started the first brewery here. He later sold the brewery to one of his employees Louis Brauchle.

Mr. Jussen's son Edmund Jussen, who may have had previous military service in Germany, served in the Civil War, became Lieut. Colonel of the 23rd Wisconsin Regiment. Later, perhaps because of influence of his cousin Carl Schurz, Edmund Jussen served in government appointments leading up to Council General to Vienna, Austria, which position he filled from 1885 to 1889 when health failed. He died in Frankfort, Germany in 1891, and as of 1910 his widow lived in Milwaukee.

TOO MANY GERMANS

Schurz's visit to Watertown (and perhaps to Columbus) was a money seeking trip, which also included in his search, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Chicago. He rejected Milwaukee as having "too many Germans" but was so well impressed with

Watertown, and its potential importance as a railroad center, that he bought a farm just outside the city limits, which he named KARLSHUEGEL, or Carls Hill, intending to lay out a sub-division of what he hoped would become high priced city lots when Watertown grew up. It had at that time a population of around 10,000.

RETURNS TO ENGLAND

Having made his purchase of land (which is still outside the city limits of Watertown) the Schurzes went back to England and Switzerland for the winter of 1855 because of Mrs. Schurzes poor health. In June of 1857 they came to Watertown to live, and Carl plunged into money making activities. He sold town lots and other Real Estate; became president of an Insurance Company; became a Notary Public, and advocate; acted as Agent for Eastern Clients in making investments; lectured in the Watertown Lyceum and was Editor of two German language newspapers. And Mrs. Schurz founded the first kindergarten in America in Watertown.

ENTERS POLITICS

He entered the local political arena, became Commissioner of Public Improvements, to build a court house and was elected to both the City Council and the County Board.

A delegation of local democrats asked him in the fall of 1855, before he went back to Europe for the winter, to campaign for the re-election of Gov. Wm. A. Barstow, but to the surprise of the Democrats, (which included most of the Germans) he refused.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 319

August 22, 1957



The Democratic party had been in control ever since statehood in 1848, but a new party came into being, called the Republican party, made up largely of whigs, Anti-Slavery Democrats, and independent voters.

Schurz did more than any one else to bring about a shift from Democratic foreign born voters to the new party.

Schurz was nominated for Assemblyman from his district in 1856, but the new party was not yet strong enough, and lost the election. A contributing cause was Temperance agitation, supported by the new party, which issue was not pleasing to the German born population.

NOMINATED FOR LT. GOVERNOR

In the Republican convention of 1857, Schurz, a bitter anti-slavery man, was nominated as Lieutenant Governor. He campaigned hard, and while he won thousands of German votes to the Republican party, and Alexander W. Randall, the party's candidate for Governor won, Schurz lost by 107 votes. Evidently there was enough nativist sentiment left in the party to defeat any German born candidate, even Schurz who was generally thought to be the ablest man at the convention.

MOVED TO MILWAUKEE

He moved to Milwaukee in 1858 and practiced law. He was a Regent of the University of Wisconsin in 1858-9.

He assisted Abraham Lincoln in the Illinois senatorial campaign of 1858, and in 1860 was a delegate to the Republican convention in the "Wigwam" in Chicago which nominated Lincoln for President.

Schurz campaigned for Lincoln, all over the country and Lincoln himself referred to Schurz as one of America's ablest orators. Lincoln carried Wisconsin by a majority of 21,000 votes, and more than half the increase in Republican votes over the election of 1856 came from four counties with heavy German population.

MINISTER TO SPAIN

Lincoln rewarded Schurz by appointing him as minister to Spain in March 1862 which he reluctantly accepted but came back in May 1862 to persuade Lincoln to issue his Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln asked Schurz to make speeches arousing the public opinion in favor of such a proclamation, which followed shortly thereafter.

WAR SERVICE

Schurz was commissioned a Brigadier General and was attached to Gen'l Fremont's Division in the valley of Virginia. After very creditable service through the end of the war, he did newspaper work in Washington, Detroit and St. Louis, where he became editor of the St. Louis German paper Westliche Post.

U.S. SENATOR AND CABINET MEMBER

In 1869 he was elected U.S. Senator from Missouri. He was secretary of the Interior under Pres. Hayes. Later in life he won high standing in the literary field, writing biographies of Henry Clay, and Abraham Lincoln, and his own Reminiscences.

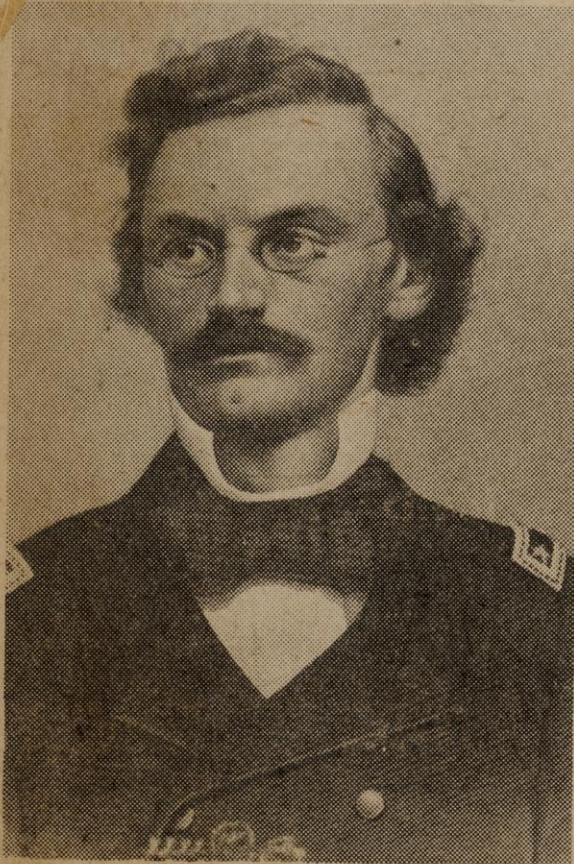
HONORARY DEGREE

One of Schurz's last appearances was as commencement orator at the University of Wisconsin in June 1905, when he was given the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws. He died the following May at his home on Lake George, New York.

We have drawn freely for information about this German Refugee of a hundred years ago, from H. Russell Austin's the "Story of Wisconsin", to whom we are thankful.

Our reason for inserting Schurz in this series of articles is to indicate what one person can accomplish if and when he sets out to do something, the profound influence he exercised among German born Americans, and the further fact that his uncle, Jacob Jussen was one of the early German settlers in Columbus.

Jussen or a son was one of the charter members of Columbus Masonic Lodge No. 75, and one of his sons as previously mentioned herein, had a dis-

**CARL SCHURZ**

tinguishing career in the consular service of the U.S.

WISCONSIN'S SEVEREST TEST

Again drawing from Austin's "Story of Wisconsin":

The severest test of Wisconsin's loyalty to the Union she had joined only 13 years earlier, came with the outbreak of the Civil War. Lincoln's election, which Carl Schurz had done so much to achieve, and the coming into power of the Wisconsin born Republican party, (at Ripon in 1854) ignited sectional bitterness."

Following Lincoln's election in Nov. 1860 and before his inauguration March, 1861, six southern states had seceded and organized a provisional Confederate government, and in April 12, 1861 Rebel cannon fired upon Fort Sumter. Even before this news reached Madison, the Wisconsin Legislature had passed a bill "to aid in maintaining the Union and the supremacy of the laws, or to suppress rebellion or insurrection, or to repel invasion within the United States. The Governor was authorized to recruit volunteers, and \$100,000 was appropriated for defense.

FORT SUMTER FALLS

The news of Sumter's fall on Sunday, April 14 stunned the state. President Lincoln, on Monday issued a call for 75,000 volunteer soldiers for three months. On Tuesday, Gov. Randall called upon the militia companies in the state to enlist for Federal service, and the legislature doubled the defense appropriation. That same day, the Madison Guard became the first company to enlist in the war.

GOV. RANDALL ACTS

Within a week the governor had more volunteers, 36 companies, than the Union Army would accept, Wisconsin's quota was one regiment of ten companies. Gov. Randall asked if he could not, please, send more than one regiment.

Secy. of War Cameron advised cancelling all enlistments beyond one regiment. Gov. Randall, however, kept his own council, and kept on organizing reserve regiments, and within two months had sent two more Wisconsin regiments, and before the end of the year, seven more Wisconsin regiments had gone to the front.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment No. 320

August 29, 1957



NO ARMS AVAILABLE

The state's total military equipment at the beginning of the war was, 6 obsolete brass cannon, 135 flint lock muskets, 796 percussion muskets and 811 rifles, all outdated.

There were also 101 old pistols, 158 sabers, 44 swords, and 56 tents. Consequently, the regiments which Wisconsin sent to the Union Army in the early months of the war went east without weapons.

The 1st Wisconsin Infantry, trained at Camp Scott, Milwaukee. By November, 16 Wisconsin regiments had been organized and drilled in camps in Madison, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac and Racine.

The main center was Camp Randall, Madison, which had been the fairgrounds of the state agricultural society, and now is the University of Wisconsin's athletic field.

WISCONSIN TROOPS

All told, according to a tabulation on pages 90 and 91 of Columbia County History, published in 1880, Wisconsin troops in Army and Navy, in 92 different "outfits" listed were as follows. Original strength 56,792; gained by recruits in years show 1863, 8361; 1864, 11245; 1865, 2752; gain by substitutions 2361; gain by draft in year show 1863, 5961; 1864, 1798; 1865, 1325; veterans re-enlisting 15784; total 91,379.

Losses during service—deaths 10868; missing 258; desertion 3362; transfer 2961; discharged 15193; mustered out 54052; remaining in service November 1, 1865, 4685.

The above is obviously not a correct figure of military strength, as it includes re-enlistments.

One item indicates 244 colored troops. There was one Wisconsin regiment of colored troops.

COLUMBIA COUNTY'S WAR RECORD

No state in the union was more prompt in sending forward volunteers than was Wisconsin, and no part of Wisconsin responded with greater vigor than did Columbia County.

Within two weeks of the proclamation calling for volunteers, by the President, Columbus had formed a company of volunteers, as announced in the Journal of April 25, 1861, and had called a mass meeting at which a resolution was passed "pledging to raise the necessary means for the support of the wives and children of those brave men who have or may volunteer to serve in the Union Army."

TWO WOMEN VOLUNTEER

In the same issue appeared the following notice of the present exigencies of our country and inasmuch as female volunteers for the war could not be accepted, two young ladies of fair education, and who can furnish testimonials of good moral character, volunteer to make good the places of any 2 honest patriots, engaged in any respectable occupation, possible for a healthy energetic woman to fill. This offer is made in good faith. Address the Misses Lizzie or Eunice Grout, Fall River, Columbia County.

CAPT. STARKWEATHER MADE COLONEL

In the issue of the Journal of May 2, 1861 we find "Gov. Randall has appointed Capt. John C. Starkweather Colonel of the First Wisconsin Regiment. Capt. Starkweather is one of the best officers in the northwest. He is a good disciplinarian, a gallant and patriotic soldier and officer, who knows no such words as Fear or Fail."

LIST OF FIRST 50

The Journal of May 9, 1861 published the names of the fifty men who were drilling daily, under the instruction of James T. Lewis, Capt. Willard Scott, jr. and Delancy L. Thayer, a veteran of the Mexican War; and the articles they signed when joining. "The Undersigned for the purpose of aiding the Government of the United States in suppressing insurrection, and to carry on the war in the present emergency, do hereby volunteer our services for the above purposes, and agree to hold ourselves in readiness at all times to respond to the call, or requirements, of the Governor of the State of Wisconsin and will march to the seat of war as soon as we can have permission

and that we will stand by and obey the orders of the protom and permanent officers of the company when formed and while being formed, and faithfully adhere to the rules and regulations made for the government of said company when adopted:

J. T. Henderson, W. H. Hopkins, J. E. Churchill, O. A. Southmayd, M. B. Misner, C. A. Searles, E. E. Polly, J. B. Drew, Geo. P. Dix, Wm. Dutcher, J. E. Hurd, E. P. Sayre, C. W. Skinner, W. J. Townsley, Chas. Heise, J. F. Kent, W. Kuhl, G. Breunig, John Roth, James H. Conlin, John Dott, Albert Querck, H. Drew, Allen Van Walker, Henry Carman, H. M. Brown, E. E. Eason, K. C. Haynes, A. Cause, N. Slawson, A. S. Trumbell, David McLarty, Fred Luth, Phio DeVasen, J. F. Hazelton, Hirman Seffens, D. H. Pulcifer, Alfred Miller, William E. Page, C. W. Allen, H. T. Sprague, H. Chamberlain, O. Boardman, S. C. Buzzell, A. A. Hunington, C. J. White, J. T. Lewis, William Dutcher, jr., R. Clark, J. Fox, Willard Scott, jr. Capt.

COMPANY NAMED

Journal of May 16, 1861 advises company had been designated as the Columbus Union Guards, which name was suggested by N. Slawson. The officers chosen were Hon. James T. Lewis, Capt.; Willard Scott, jr., First Lieutenant; M. B. Misner, Ensign.

The additional names had been added as follows: F. Wolf, Simeon B. Kendall, F. H. Butterfield, John McConnell, Franklin Moore, L. Porter Holmes, J. B. Folsome, James Holmes, Thomas Dorson and James McCabe, drummers.

SOME DISSATISFACTION

After several weeks of drilling without arms or uniforms, and other unavoidable reasons causing delay in the Columbus Union Guards being called up, a number withdrew, and still others who had not joined, decided their chances for getting into action sooner would be better if they joined other units.

The paper of May 30, 1861 stated that Benj. Campbell, Thomas Downs, Jack Flanagan, Rufus Clark, Wm. Dutcher, jr. and William W. Mallo left from this area to join up in Madison or Milwaukee.

In the issue of June 13th the following were reported to have left for Milwaukee with Recruiting Sergeant A. McFadden to join the Zouaves, a Milwaukee Company: C. W. Skinner, David McLarty, H. W. Perkins, J. J. Paddock and James Conlin.

MANY VOLUNTEERS

During the first two years of the war there were sufficient and more volunteers to meet the several successive calls of the President. However in May, 1863 it became apparent that a Draft would have to be set up by the Federal Government, covering the entire list of loyal Union States.

Late in July, the Columbia County Draft Board made its report, that the number of persons in the county, liable for military duty, was 2,045, of the first class and 1,609 of the second class: (the latter included many middle age to elderly men.)

Under the President's call for 300,000 men in 1863, the quota to be filled in Columbia County would be about 270. Adj. Gen. Gaylord had prepared a table showing the quotas of the several townships in Columbia County, under the calls for volunteers made in 1861 and 1862, revealing that the County's quota had been 1342, and that there had been 1599 volunteers, and that subsequently there had been three more or actually 1602, or 260 in excess of the calls. We will enumerate only the few towns in the trading area in Columbia County and are sorry that similar data from nearby townships in Dodge and Dane counties are not available: Fountain Prairie, quota 54, volunteered 93; Hampden, quota 50, volunteered 47; Columbus 134, volunteered 166. After deducting the 260 in excess, there was a remainder of 93 to be drafted in the County.

(continued next week)

September 5, 1957

To partly offset, or anticipate dissention the Draft Law provided that upon payment of \$300.00 in cash, the draftee could become exempt and without any dishonor, for a period of three years.

A SPECIFIC CASE

To illustrate, here is a specific case, of a citizen of Columbus. A thrifty, hard working, law-abiding man, (name omitted), several descendants of whom still live here, had come to America and located in Columbus, late in 1858. Two years later he applied for citizenship, as shown by a certain document temporarily in the writers possession, giving his birth date and country, Germany; his landing at the port of New York, November 18th, 1858, and "that it is his bona fide intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign Prince, Potentate, state of Sovereignty, whatever and particularly Frederick Francis, whereof he is a subject." Dated 3rd day of November, A. D., 1860, signed by A. G. Cook, Deputy Clerk of Circuit Court.

HE IS DRAFTED

Another Document dated December 21, 1863, a form headed Office of Receiver of Commutation Money, Second District of Wisconsin, Madison.

Received at Madison, on the 21st day of December, 1863, from (name omitted), who was drafted into the service of the United States on the 16th day of November, 1863, from the Second Congressional District of the state of Wisconsin, the sum of THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS to obtain, under Section 13 of the Act for enrolling and calling out the national forces, and for other purposes, approved March 3, 1863, discharge from further liability under that Draft. Signed, E. R. Wadsworth, receiver of Commutation Money.

A CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

Still another document of same date, December 21st, 1863, is entitled Certificate of Non-Liability to be given by the Board of Enrollment. "We the subscribers, composing the Board of Enrollment of the Second District of the state of Wisconsin, provided for in section 8, Act of Congress, "for enrolling and calling out the national forces approved March 3, 1863, hereby certify that (name omitted) of Columbus, Columbia County, State of Wisconsin, having given satisfactory evidence that he is not properly subject to do military duty, as required by said act, by reason of payment of \$300.00, is exempt from all liability to military duty for a term of three years. Signed S. J. Putnam, Provost Marshall and President Board of Enrollment; J. B. Haswell, Member of Board of Enrollment; and C. N. Head, Surgeon Board of Enrollment.

It is said by relatives that (name omitted) had to borrow the money, as was necessary in many other cases, as \$300 was a lot of money for a working man to dig up, at that time. This is a typical case where a husband and father felt that his first duty was to provide a living for his family, and preferred to go into debt to make this possible.

NON CITIZENS EXEMPT

There were apparently, other immigrants who had made no declaration of intent to become a citizen, who still claimed allegiance to foreign sovereign. Here is a document that provided exemption, as will be noted.

State of Wisconsin

County of Milwaukee

SS.

I, Fredrick Wiehelm M....., of the town of Randolph, Columbia County, State of Wisconsin, do solemnly swear that I am an alien and a subject of the Kingdom of Prussia, having been born there at Koenigsdorf, in the District of Bromberg in the year 1831, that I came to the United States

in the year 1861 and that I have since resided in the town of Courtland in said County and State, and for the last seventeen months in the said town of Randolph, and do now reside in said town; that I have never declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States, and have not exercised the right of suffrage by voting at any election in any state; that I claim to be exempt from military service on the ground that I am a subject of the Kingdom of Prussia as aforesaid, and have not declared my intentions to become a citizen of the United States and have never voted in any state.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st day of August, A. D., 1864.

VOLUNTEERS VS. DRAFT

Much effort was made through the press and otherwise to encourage recruitment of volunteers rather than to await mandatory call through the draft.

In the early days preceeding the draft, this item in the local paper illustrates the point.

"The Difference Between Volunteering and Drafting". A volunteer receives the full bounty—\$25.00 in advance, one month's full pay of \$13.00 in advance, and \$75.00 at the end of his time of service, together with the usual 160 acres of land, (some place).

Besides all this, his family receives pecuniary assistance during his absence.

The drafted militia receives but \$11.00 per month and no bounty money; they can be held to service out of the state three months, by order of the Governor. Let no one, however, deceive himself with the idea that drafted soldiers will serve only three months, for after the militia are drafted Congress can easily hold them to serve during the war."

Later, because of citizen contributions towards increasing the bounty, beyond what the Government paid as above, individuals volunteering got from \$300 up in cash in advance."

BOUNTY & PRIVILEGES FOR VOLUNTEERS

A system of bounties had been developed, whereby anyone drafted could collect \$300 or perhaps more, if he volunteered.

On page 570, Columbia County History, will be found a tabulation by townships showing the amount of money that had been raised for this purpose. Late in 1864, the bounty figures apparently reached as high as nearly \$500 per volunteer.

The figures of money raised for bounty in nearby townships in Columbia County were: Fountain Prairie \$15,200; Hampden \$14,638; Columbus, \$30,204.

COLUMBIA COUNTY ROSTER

Beginning on page 580, the Roster of Columbia County soldiers. 169 names shown from the town of Columbus, which included the village; 97 names from Fountain Prairie, and 47 from Hampden. We are sure Elba, Calamus, Portland, York and Bristol, in Dodge and Dane counties, would show equally well for the area.

However, in counting the names, which are listed by companies and Regiments, we notice that several were duplicated, indication either transfers from one "outfit" to another, or because of re-enlistments; therefore the above figures are not completely accurate as to the number of individuals.

NOT A COMPLETE HISTORY

This is not intended to be a complete and full history of the part the men of Columbus and area played in the Civil War. Neither time or space would permit that. Most of the young men from hereabouts were in the Infantry, from the 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry clear through to the 53rd Wisconsin Infantry. The 23rd alone had 52 from here, and the 18th had 44 men.

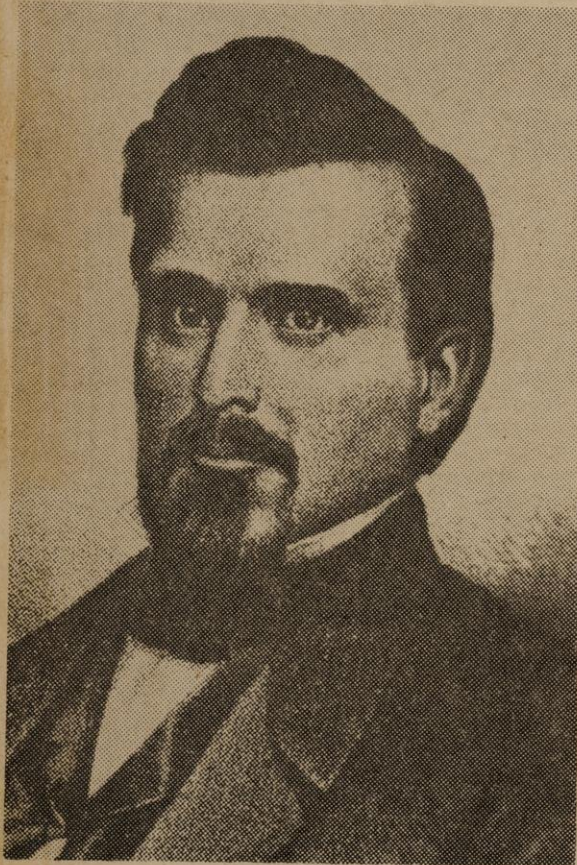
(continued next week)

LEWIS BECOMES GOVERNOR

James T. Lewis of Columbus, who came here in 1845, a young lawyer, our first, had served in about every local township, village, county, territory or state office there was. He sat in the second constitutional convention, had been Secretary of State, and Lt. Governor, entered the office as Governor in January, 1864, the fourth War Governor, Randall, Harvey and Solomon having preceded him.

As succeeding calls for more men came in the later years of the war, Governor Lewis dealt with the Provost Marshall General in Washington to get Wisconsin's quotas adjusted downward to their proper numbers after giving effect to the excess above calls in previous years.

He assisted in and greatly improved the work of bringing wounded and sick soldiers home to Wisconsin, and co-operated in a way that made it possible for Mrs. Cordelia Harvey, widow of Governor Harvey who lost his life by drowning while on a river trip, to take badly needed supplies and medicines to Wisconsin soldiers, to establish, first the Harvey hospital in Madison, and after the war, an orphans home in the same building. (See installment 232).

**GOV. JAMES T. LEWIS**

Governor Lewis also gave much time, thought and personal effort to improve the lot of Wisconsin soldiers at the front, and of the sick and wounded. One man out of every five, of military age was in some branch of service at some time during the war.

No soldiers from this area were called for in the first draft, in May, 1863, as more than our quota had volunteered. However in the November, 1863, draft, the following from Columbus area were called up: Chancellor Ellithorp, John O'Rourke, John Moll, John Topp, Edward Bowen, Marc Fuller, Ward Blanchard, Pat Malone, James Eckart, Wm. Styles, Wm. B. Williams, C. P. Peabody, H. W. Knight, H. Nehemiher, G. W. Hazelton, Elias Haight, David Eckart, F. W. Conrad, B.

J. Williams, Morris Cunningham, Ward Eaton, Silas Axtell, J. D. Doniphan, S. Tobin, D. S. Fuller, J. W. Watson, Frantz Weisenberg, Fred Hicks, and Milo Ingalls.

Many of the above were prominent, middle-aged business and professional men of Columbus.

WHERE WIS. TROOPS SERVED

The campaigns in which Wisconsin troops participated were as follows:

Western Theater

Occupation of New Orleans, April 18 to May 1, 1862; Vicksburg and Baten Rouge, May 18 to August 6, 1862; Prairie Grove, (Pea Ridge) Ark., December 7, 1862; Second Vicksburg Campaign, December 26, 1862 to July 4, 1863; Siege of Port Hudson, May 21 to July 8, 1863; Teche County Campaign, October 8 to November 30, 1863; Rio Grande Campaign, October 27 to December 2, 1863; Red River Campaign, March 10 to May 22, 1864; Camden Expedition, March 23 to May 3, 1864.

Middle Theater

Cumberland Gap, March 28 to June 18, 1862; Shilo or Pittsburg Landing, April 6-7, 1862; Siege of Corinth, April 29 to June 16, 1862; Battle of Corinth, October, 1862; Chaplin Hill, October 5, 1862; Murphreesboro, December 26, 1862 to January 1, 1863; Jackson Campaign, July 5-25, 1863; Tullahoma Campaign, June 23 to July 7, 1863; Chickamanga Campaign, August 16 to September 22, 1863; Chattanooga, November 23-27, 1863; Atlanta Campaign, May 1 to September 8, 1864; Savana Campaign, November 15 to December 21, 1864; Franklin and Nashville Campaign, November 30 to December 16, 1864; Mobile, March 17 to May 4, 1865.

Eastern Theater

Bull Run or Manassas July 16-22, 1861; Pensular Campaign, March 17 to June 24, 1862; Shennandoa Valley, May 18 to June 17, 1862; Northern Virginia, August 9 to September 2, 1862; Maryland, September 3-30, 1862; Fredricksburg, December 11-15, 1862; Siege of Suffolk, April 11 to May 4, 1863; Chancellorsville, April 27 to May 6; Gettysburg Campaign, June 3 to August 1, 1863; Bristol, October 9-22, 1863; Advance on Rappahannock, November 7-8, 1863; Mine Run, November 26 to December 2, 1863; Wilderness, May 4 to June 12, 1864; Siege of Richmond, June 13, 1864 to April 3, 1865; Appomatox, March 29 to April 9, 1865.

THE IRON BRIGADE

One of the most outstanding units in the Union Army became known as the "Iron Brigade", which included the 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin infantry regiments, in which three regiments, the Columbia County Roster shows the names of 25 soldiers from the Columbus area. Besides the three Wisconsin regiments there was one from Indiana, and later one from Michigan. It distinguished itself and won glory at Gainsville, Bull Run, Antietam, Fredricksburg, Gettysburg, and other engagements of the army of the Potomac, suffering heavier losses than any other brigade in the Army.

The name of the "Iron Brigade" is said to have been earned at South Mountain in 1862, when General George B. McClellan asked a subordinate, the designation of troops which were advancing under murderous fire.

General Hooker, who had just arrived on the scene, announced them as Gibbon's Brigade from Wisconsin and Indiana.

General McClellan expressed his opinion of the men by suggesting that "they must be made of iron. By G--!" "They are iron," Hooker replied.

At the battle of Antietam this famous brigade lost more than two-thirds of its men. After being brought up to strength, it again lost two-thirds of its men at Gettysburg.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment 323

SEPTEMBER 19, 1957



Sinking Of The Albemarle

While as far as known, no one from Columbus had a part in this thrilling event, since it was conceived and carried out by a Wisconsin man, it is worthy of space here.

In October, 1864, the Confederate Iron Clad "Ram", the Albemarle, which had been wreaking great destruction on Union Ships, both commercial and naval, was lying off Plymouth, North Carolina, and effectively holding that port, and it was in the destruction of this formidable giant, that one of the most daring feats in American Naval history was performed by a young Wisconsin officer, W. B. Cushing of Delafield, in October, 1864. He, with an improvised torpedo boat, made from a steam launch, with a party of only 14 men, proceeded in the dark towards the Albemarle.

They Succeeded

Evading the boom of floating logs which protectively surrounded the "Ram", the fearless crew ran its small launch through a rain of bullets to the side of the ship, and placed a torpedo under it and succeeded in blowing it up. The torpedo launch was so badly damaged by the explosion that all of the crew were captured and imprisoned except Cushing who escaped and swam back to shore. He was thanked by Congress and made a lieutenant commander. A monument, an obelisk, was erected in his honor, and still stands in the vicinity of Nashota and Delafield. It was plainly seen from the electric cars that used to run from Watertown to Milwaukee.

Much of the information used is from various publications of the State Historical Society, and H. Russell Austin's Story of Wisconsin, for which we thank them.

Red River Expedition

This little known expedition included one of the most amazing engineering feats of the war, conceived by a Wisconsin officer, Col. Joseph Baily of the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, and executed by Col. Baily with about 3000 men, many of whom were or had been lumberjacks on the streams of Wisconsin.

They were drawn largely from the 23rd and 24th regiments of Wisconsin Infantry. Col. Joshua J. Guppy of Portage and formerly a Columbus lawyer, was in command and Edmund Jussen, also of Columbus was Lt. Colonel, of the 23rd in which regiment there were a total of 278 men from Columbia county, of which 52 were from Columbus and 46 from Lodi. Also officers of 23rd were James C. Axtell, surgeon; and John F. Hazelton, Capt. Co. G., both of Columbus.

During the Red River expedition in the spring of 1864 an army of 27,000 men under Gen. Nathaniel O. Banks had penetrated far up the valley of the Red River in Louisiana and Texas supported and supplied by a fleet of Union gun boats and transports.

Banks began a retreat, down stream from Northwestern Louisiana. The spring floods had made the river navigable, but when the rains suddenly ceased it left the boats stranded.

Boats On The Rocks

The commanding officers were about to have the fleet destroyed to save it from capture, when Col. Baily begged permission to try to get the boats off the rocks. He was laughed at, but told he could try if he thought it could be done.

With about 3000 men, largely from the two Wisconsin regiments, many with river and logging experience, Baily ordered trees cut, and in eight days had built a log dam across the 750 ft. width of the river, as lumbermen often did to re-float a stranded log raft on streams in northern Wisconsin.

In spite of a section of the dam washing out from the force of the rising water back of the dam, which required four more days of repairing the damage, the water again rose and floated the boats off the rocks.

The chute was then opened and the floating boats rushed through the deepened channel and on down stream.

Col. Baily and his lumberjacks had saved a two million dollar fleet for the Union, and perhaps Bank's Army as well.

A sword and loving cup, which Congress had voted Col. Baily, can be seen at the museum of the State Historical Society at Madison.

The writer had the good fortune to hear Gen. Jim Dan Hill, a few years ago, give an excellent talk in which he described the Red River Campaign and the rescue of the fleet, in considerable detail.

Nationality Groups

There were a number of Wisconsin regiments made up of nationality groups. German born citizens constituted the majority of the 9th, 26th, 27th, and 45th Infantry.

The 15th were mostly Norwegians, under the command of Col. Hans C. Heg, whose monument stands on one corner of Capital Square in Madison. Out of 899 men, 115 had a first name of Ole. The 15th fought in twenty six battles, and sustained heavy losses in many of them, including Murfreesboro, Missionary Ridge, Pickett's Mill and Chickamauga where their gallant commander, only 33 years of age, was mortally wounded.

The 17th Infantry was almost totally made up of Irish, and was famous for its fierce bayonette charges.

At Corin'h, they routed the enemy so fiercely that their commander, Brig. Gen'l. Arthur MacArthur, father of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commended them highly.



Col. MacArthur

Arthur MacArthur was Col. in Wis. 24th Wis. Vol. and became Adjutant and finally Brigadier General. He became the father of the currently famous Gen. Douglas MacArthur, General of the Army, the highest rank obtainable in the Army of the U. S.

To Be Ignorant Of History Is To Be Ignorant

With these brief accounts of some of the highlights of the war between the states, enough, we hope, to inspire further reading by those who like history, we will leave the larger arena and return to our own area for a few incidents.

We suggest that our readers will keep a thoughtful eye on the "95 Years Ago" column on page 2 for items of local nature which have and will be appearing from time to time, which bear on the Civil War.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment 324

SEPTEMBER 26, 1957



Columbia County History Book

There are about 25 pages beginning on page 555 of Columbia County History, published in 1880, of which there are quite a few copies in the homes of descendants of Civil War veterans as well as a few in the local Library, that specifically pertain to Columbia County's War Record that should prove interesting. There is also a short chapter of about 12 pages on Dodge County in the War, in the Dodge County History, also published in 1880.

The remainder of this particular article will be from various sources, principally of newspapers of the period, and from documentary records.

Letter From Capt. Coleman To His Wife

A letter from Captain Coleman of Lewis Rangers, a Columbus group comprising the major portion of Company I of the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, appeared in the Journal of April 23, 1862, follows: "In camp near Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, April 12th, 1862, I have been engaged in one of the most terrible battles that was ever fought on the Western Continent, and hope to God that it will be the last that will be fought on this continent, or any other, as it was terrible beyond description; at any rate I cannot find words to express what I saw on Sunday and Monday of this week.

A Surprise Attack

On Saturday of last, we landed from the Steam boat and pitched our tents after dark, and the next morning we were attacked about half past seven by eighty thousand rebels, and we fought all day until dark, and they had the advantage of us in all respects and kept it all day.

They drove us about two miles away from our tents, and they robbed them of everything that they could carry away.

Counter Attack

The next morning we made an attack and fought them until about twelve o'clock before we drove them. We drove them about ten miles as fast as they could travel. We took nearly all of their artillery and how many firearms I do not know, but there are a lot of them.

We lost a good many as prisoners on the first day of the fight, how many I do not know, but the 18th (regiment) lost prisoners, as near as we can find out, about 150. Our killed and wounded will amount to about 100 more.

We lost our Colonel and Major, killed; our Lt. Col. and acting Adjutant were wounded, but will recover.

Columbus Soldiers

Now I have something to say of our own company's loss. Lts. Ford and Southmayd are both prisoners, as I cannot hear anything of them. Peter Mead, Geo. Dexter and Benj. Shaver are prisoners, and a good many more that you are not acquainted with. We have three men killed, Rensler Cronk, our orderly sgt., Maurice J. Cook, of Scott, and George Hillman of Portage City. They are all that I know of.

We had sixteen wounded, none of them dangerously except Thomas Laskey, he was shot through the body, and he cannot be found; since we put him into an ambulance and put him aboard a steam boat. I have hunted for him but in vain, I fear he is dead.

Elias Haight is among the wounded, shot through the hand; Peter McIntyre was shot through the leg; Albert Turk shot through the arm; C. C. Devore of Columbus wounded in the arm; Peter Callahan, slightly wounded; none others wounded that you know. The men are having the regular camp sickness."

Lt. Ed B. Roys

In the same battle, Co. D of the 16th Wisconsin in which several area soldiers served, lost, killed, Capt. Oliver D. Pease, Corp. Wm. Taylor, and privates Alphonse Harrington, August Wollem, Louis Pettis, and Chester W. Haskins. Wounded, Sgt. John S. Bean, Corp. Chas. N. Virgin, Corp. Michael Walrod, privates O'Brien, E. Cook, Harman Gerreck, Joseph Edwards, Jems M. Lyons,

Dennis Delanty, Josiah W. Fields, Burton R. Towsley, Chas. H. Tracy, Wm. Hamilton, Daniel Kallahan, Harrison Fuller, Milo Farrington (leg amputated); missing, Lt. Louis Fassbine.

The Company was under command of Lt. E. B. Roys (of Roy and Bros. plantation, town of Hampden).

From issue of April 23, 1862, we learn that Ed Roys, well known at that time, recruited some 30 to 40 men in the Hampden, Leeds, Otsego area in the early days of the war, was home on a short leave.

Newspaper Change

The Columbus Journal had for some time been operated by a partnership consisting of D. H. Pulcifer and Jas. F. Hazelton.

A notice of dissolution appeared early in May, 1862, and about six weeks later Mr. Pulcifer blossomed out with a new newspaper, the "Union Banner", while Mr. Hazelton continued to run the Journal for some months longer. However in October, 1862, Mr. Hazelton enlisted in the Union Army, became a captain of whom we will learn more. It was then that Daniel Mallo, the elderly founder of the paper, who had retired a year or two earlier, came back to run the paper.

The last copy we have is dated December 30, 1863, but we learn that Mr. Mallo kept the paper going until in October, 1864 when he died. Only one issue was printed after his death, when the paper ceased publication.

What may have happened to the Union Banner is not known, but it is assumed it was very short lived, as it is not even mentioned in Columbia County History.

However, in the winter of 1864-5 a paper named the Columbus Transcript appeared, and is said to have continued for a few years. No copy of it is known to exist, and so far as research is concerned, there are no papers between 1863 and 1868. This is unfortunate, as we will be unable to pick up local war news items later than the end of 1863.

Then And Now

In the present unparalleled age of Nuclear warfare, guided missiles, jet aircraft, electronics, and what have you that have so rapidly outmoded the powerful and destructive forces of yesterday, it is interesting to note an editorial in the Columbus Weekly Journal of June 18, 1862, entitled, "American Genius" which we quote:

"The fertile mind of the American people was never more thoroughly tested, or more triumphantly vindicated, than through the results and achievements of this war.

It is not often that science exercises so broad a scope, over the movements of armies, as in the present contest.

This is the tendency of things modern. Rifled Cannon, Minnie Muskets and Iron Clad War Steamers, take the place of Smooth Bores, Flint Locks and Wooden ships.

The genius of American intellect, wrought the iron Monitor, and the motives of the whole world became revolutionized. England crank and pompons, with her iron sided warrior and myriads of lesser craft, trembled when she saw the Yankee cheesebox, and immediately became more decent and respectful towards us. Balloons—But Europe will be quite amazed to learn that we have made use of balloons, to direct the movements of our armies in battle.

The efficiency of this method of warfare was fully proved at the battle of Fair Oaks, when a balloon suspended over the battle field, communicated to our commanders by telegraph, how to direct their fire, and when the rebels were concentrating to make an attack.

Very much is due to this, for the successes of that day. Our troops might not have found the enemy at times without heavy loss, concealed as they were behind the dense growth of woods. But the telegraph pointed them out, and the cannon balls scattered them.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

Installment 325

OCTOBER 3, 1957



These triumphs of science are deciding this contest. We are bringing daily, against our adversary, new and unexpected auxiliaries which he cannot meet. Each day develops some new power of the people, each day our nations muscles are hardening, its genius expanding, and its position among the nations of the earth becoming fixed forever."

Remember, this was written only 95 years ago.

No Army

At the outbreak of the war, the Federal Government had no army other than about 16,000 men in all infantry, cavalry and artillery units, and most of the cavalry were stationed in the West to hold the various warring tribes of Indians in check.

Only skeleton detachments of infantry manned the few army posts and the artillery were mostly in forts along the coast and navigable rivers.

When the president called for 75,000 volunteers for 90 days, the governors of Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Virginia and North Carolina, refused to furnish their quotas.

In Missouri, a border state, with a population divided in their views, and Governor Jackson an out and out secessionist, was non-cooperative. Patriotic Missouri citizens themselves raised 12 regiments with a total of 11,445 officers and men.

Wisconsin Responds Promptly

In Wisconsin, as previously stated, the call was for one regiment only, but before the year end seven regiments had been sent to the front, mostly without arms, ammunition or uniforms.

The 1st Wisconsin Vol. Infantry, in part, consisted of existing companies of militia, augmented by eager volunteers. Four companies in Milwaukee, two from Madison, and one each from Kenosha, Horicon, Fond du Lac, and Beloit, designated as follows:

Co. A. Milwaukee Light Guard; B. Milwaukee Union Rifles; C. Horicon Guards; D. the "Black Yagers"; E. Madison Guards; F. Beloit City Guard; G. Park City Greys; H. Milwaukee Riflemen; I. Fond du Lac Badgers and K. Governors Guard. The numerical strength on the day they left Camp Scott, Milwaukee, was 810 officers and men. Five men from Columbus, Lansing Williams, Harvey K. Dodge, Charles A. Searls, Adison S. Gardner, and Oscar Boardmen, were in Co. G.

John C. Starkweather, who had come from Schenectady, N. Y. in 1850 was admitted to the Bar at Milwaukee February 11, 1851, and was active in the state militia and in 1861 was made Capt. of Milwaukee Light Guard.

The regiment as first organized was a 90-day unit, of which Capt. Starkweather became Colonel. On April 27, 1861 they were sworn into state service by Judge Advocate Edwin L. Buttrick, and that same day Col. Starkweather issued a regimental order prescribing the uniforms, for neither the state nor the United States had uniforms.

First Wisconsin Leaves

On May 17, 1861, the First Wisconsin regiment was mustered into service of the United States for a period of 90 days. They received marching orders June 7 and departed for Harrisburg, Pa. By that time the troops were well equipped and during their six weeks at Camp Scott, the Milwaukee units had been well drilled. It required 17 passenger cars, two baggage cars, and five freight cars to carry the men and equipment.

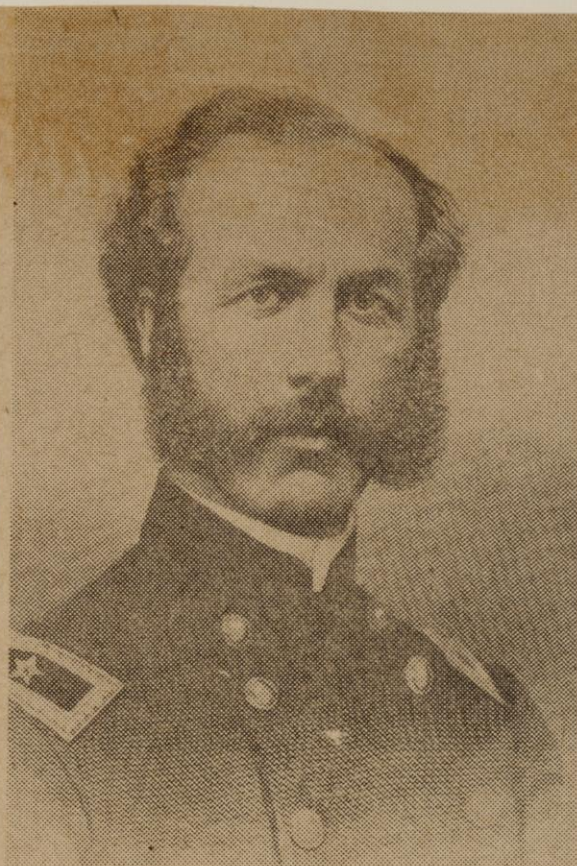
The regiments were armed with the "Minnie Rifle" instead of smooth bore muzzle loading muskets, and were classified as sharpshooters.

They were sent to Hagerstown, Md., Williamsport and the Harpers Ferry area, and took part in considerable maneuvering and forced marches, but did not engage in actual fighting until on July 2, when they crossed the Potomac River into Virginia by wading in knee deep water, the 1st Wisconsin in the lead toward Martinsburg. They encountered the enemy who greeted them with a volley of musketry which was immediately returned. Thus began the Battle of Falling Waters, or Hainesville, the first engagement in which

Wisconsin troops fought. The engagement on July 2 resulted in the defeat and retreat of the enemy, whose loss of men was estimated as 70 killed.

The day after the battle the regiment continued its march to Martinsburg and became a part of a concentration of 30,000 Union Soldiers.

Time or space is not sufficient to follow in detail the movements of the 90 day 1st Wisconsin. Suffice it to say that the regiment was brought back to Milwaukee and mustered out, the next day following the 90 day period.



Colonel John C. Starkweather

It's late Colonel, John C. Starkweather, was commissioned as commanding officer of the re-organized First Wisconsin Infantry and re-enlistments and new enlistments went on rapidly. The regiment was mustered into the U. S. service October 8, 1861.

Ordered To The Front

Octobr 27, the regiment was ordered to report for duty to General William Tecumsha Sherman at Louisville, Kentucky. Leaving the next day and three days later they were in Camp Sherman, on the north side of the Ohio River, in Jefferson, Indiana.

No fighting of consequences took place until mid-February, when the regiment was sent to the vicinity of Nashville.

On April 5, Col. Starkweather was assigned to the command of a Brigade, composed of his own 1st Wi., the 35th Indiana, some Pennsylvania cavalry and a section of artillery. Later the 38th Indiana and the 5th Kentucky cavalry were added to his Brigade.

This Brigade was active in the entire campaign around Chattanooga and sustained heavy losses from disease, killed, wounded and prisoners. For example, the chaplain of the 1st Wisconsin reported that the regiment lost, on the front lines at Perryville, every second man in the regiment, killed or wounded. At Chickamauga, 80 percent of the regiment was killed, wounded or taken prisoner. Five officers were killed, five wounded and three taken prisoner.

Of General Starkweather, the report said, "He stayed right with us through all the battle, frequently on the front line, his tall form the mark for many a bullet, he escaped with one slight wound."

(continued next week)

October 10, 1957

Lt. Searls Killed

It was in this engagement that Lt. Charles A. Searls of Columbus was killed and Addison S. Gardiner wounded. Lansing Williams of Columbus was wounded and taken prisoner during this campaign and perhaps in this particular battle. Lansing Williams, 45 years after the close of the war, was appointed by Gov. Robert M. LaFollett, a member of the Wisconsin Monument Commission, made up of men who had been prisoners of war confined in Andersonville, Ga. Prison Stockade. The monument was dedicated in 1911. A very interesting book, "The Report of the Commission", of which Williams was treasurer, may be found in the Columbus Public Library. Mr. Williams also authored a small volume of his own personal experiences, a copy of which the writer once had, but it was loaned out and never returned. The Library does not have a copy of it.

The Journal of September 23, 1863, has the following item:

"Death of Capt. Chas. A. Searls:"

"The telegraph brings the announcement of the death of Capt. Chas. A. Searls, Adjutant of Starkweather's brigade. Of the particulars of his death, we know nothing except that he was killed in the recent battle.

That he died bravely and with his face to the foe, no one who knew him will require to be assured.

Young Searls, or "Charley" as he was commonly called, resided in this village for some years previous to his enlistment and from his frank and genial manners as well as his brightness and intelligence, won the hearts of all with whom he associated or came in contact."

Letter From The Front

Thus far we have mentioned specifically three Columbus men in Co. G. First Wis. Infantry engaged at Chickamaugh, and we now mention a fourth, Harvey K. Dodge, who was a sergeant in Co. G. and later detached and added to General Starkweather's Headquarters Staff.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Edith Williams of Oshkosh (see installment 75-243-244) we are able to print here a letter written by Harvey K. Dodge to his elderly friend, Mr. George Griswold, who built the Griswold Mansion, now the Zeidler-Alberts Funeral home at 146 South Dickason Blvd.

"Headquarters 1st Division
Camp Dawson, Alabama
August 16th, 1863

Dear George:

I think I promised that I would write to you when once more in camp. I cannot say how interesting the letter will be and if I remember right I did not commit myself on this point at all.

We left camp at Cowen Station, Tenn. Monday morning on the 10th to cross the mountains which we did in good shape, in two days time and went into Camp on Crow Creek, between Stevenson and Anderson on the Nashville and Chattanooga R.R. where we now are.

The weather was very hot with no rain, and although we could only make ten miles a day it being hard on the men and many gave out from heat alone. There was a number of cases of sunstroke, but none proved fatal as far as I can find out. We are now right down in amongst the mountains and if you want to know what heat is, you had better come down and stay a few days with us.

I wish I could go into "Sergeants" (a local saloon) and get something cool, just for a change. The R. R. is in good running order to Bridgeport where our advance is now. Only one half of the bridge at Bridgeport was burned, until yesterday when the Rebels commenced shelling our pickets and under cover of the shelling, they burned the remainder of it and then took French leave to some other point.

I cannot say to what point we shall make from here. I think though its (General) Rosencrans intentions to push right through to Ga. and also to take and hold Chattanooga and clean out East Tenn. There is only this Division here just now although the rest of the corps is on its way to join us. (General) Negley (Union) is crossing the mountains by Claspern and down the Sequeachie Valley. Rosencrans Headquarters are still at Winchester and Thomas at Dechard, but I think this week will find them both at the front.

The hot weather, should it continue, may retard the forward movements some, but still I think we shall push ahead as fast as possible and give them (the enemy) no chance to fortify.

Army In Good Spirit

The Army is in good condition and in first rate heart and spirits. The Rebs around here are very much disheartened and think their chances very poor. One man showed me a pair of boots yesterday that he paid \$40.00 for, and the same kind sold in Columbus for \$6.00. The country is entirely destitute of everything to eat or wear.

Politics At Home

I see the Democrats (at home) have gone in for Palmer for Governor. They will no doubt have a good time electing him. They could not have got a better man to help our party.

Now if the Republicans will nominate Lewis (James T.) we shall carry the state by a large majority, and show a clean record on the war question. (Lewis won by 25,000 votes). The Army vote will be given for the Republican nominee, to a man, provided he is of the right stripe, and I think Lewis is the man. The state cannot but go Republican this fall, as a great question is at stake and we must not let Traitors carry the day in Wisconsin when every other state is going strong Republican, but we must remember that motto: "Salus Populi Suprema - lax" and make old Wisconsin speak in thunderous tones to traitors at home while her boys are bravely fighting the battles of freedom at the front. I cannot think of any news of importance just now, but will keep you posted from time to time as something turns up.

Starkweather is at present commanding the Division I am with here at Division headquarters. Chas. (Searls) is still at Brigade Headquarters and all O. K. I am well and trusting this may find you the same. I will close as I am near the last of this sheet.

Remember me to all the friends with many kind regards.

Respectfully yours,
Harvey K. Dodge

Only five or six weeks after the above letter was written, the heavy fighting at Chickamaugh, previously mentioned, took place. Lanse Williams, a prisoner, Addison S. Gardner wounded and Lt. or capt.) Charles A. Searls dead.

(continued next week)

October 24, 1957

Dodge Home On Furlough

In Columbus Journal of October 7, 1863, we find this personal item "Sergeant Harvey K. Dodge of Co. G. 1st Wis. Val Inft. and private secretary to General Starkweather has returned home on a short furlough. Mr. Dodge looks well, and we believe feels well, at all events he intends to go to the war again shortly. Sergeant Dodge had his share in the hard fought battle between Rosencraps and Bragg. God be with you Sergeant whenever you get into another such tight place."

It will be noted, the item does not refer to Lt. Searls death, although it had been reported in the local paper two weeks earlier.

Dodge Recovers Searls Body

We now print another letter from Sergeant Dodge, written January 4, 1864, on stationery of the Louisville Hotel, showing a picture of the six story hostelry, corner of Sixth and Main streets in which hotel this writer had stayed a number of times some forty years or more ago. He writes:

"Friend George,

Today finds me just from the front, at this place where I shall remain during the winter.

I have a very nice thing by the way: I have been transferred to the Pay Department, with a nice little salary, and Louisville for my home, and I think with all the comforts of the city, I can make myself very contented.

I have seen another battlefield since I last saw you, also another Union victory which liberated us poor devils at Chattanooga. I went out to the old Chicamauga field and obtained Charles body and had it buried in the graveyard at Chattanooga where it can be removed at any time.

I am well and in good condition, and in a few days I will give you a short description of the late battle at Chattanooga, though it may be old to you.

Good sleighing in town today. No news of importance at Chattanooga. All going into winter quarters—In my next letter I will give my descriptions."

Respectfully yours,

Harvey K. Dodge

Harvey K. Dodge was one of four sons born to Rev. and Mrs. H. B. Dodge, a Baptist minister in New York state, (see installments No. 74-75) and was born in 1838 in Fort Covington, N. Y. He came to Columbus in 1858 to learn the mercantile, or retail general store business, working as a clerk in the store of his older brother, G. T. Dodge.

Shortly after his enlistment in Company G., First Wisconsin Volunteers, his regiment made a forced march of 27 miles in 9 hours, through rain and sleet, and when a halt was called, the men dropped down from sheer fatigue and slept on the wet ground, as best they could.

Here, Mr. Dodge caught a severe cold, terminating in typhoid pneumonia, from which he became so prostrated that he was discharged and sent home.

Upon his recovery he re-enlisted in the same company, from which he was shortly transferred to the staff of General Starkweather.

Some time after his return to civilian life he was married to Miss Nellie Dudley of Naperville, Illinois, who died only six months later.

He was again married in June, 1878, to Miss Julia Manning of Columbus.

Prior to this he and his brother, Rufus, had established a mercantile business at Sparta, Wis.

He died at Sparta October 20, 1879, and was brought here for burial.

Lansing Williams Writes

In the Columbus Democrat of September 27, 1879, while searching for the obituary of Mr. Dodge, we came across an item, first published in the Milwaukee Telegram, a newspaper of that

period, that has more to say about the horrors of prisons during the war. Apparently the newspaper was inviting names of soldiers and personal recollections. The article was entitled, "A Prison Glimpse" and reads as follows:

Lansing Williams, Co. G., First Wis. Infty., writes from Columbus, Wis., to say that he is responding to the invitation but cannot find time to give more than the following prison order, which he believes will be of interest.

"Headquarters of Confederate States Prison, Andersonville, Ga., July 27, 1864. Order No. 13. The officers on duty and in charge of the Battery of Florida Artillery at the time, will, upon receiving notice that the enemy have approached within seven miles of this post, open fire upon the stockade with grape shot, with reference to the situation beyond these lines of defense.

It is better that the last federal be exterminated than be permitted to burn and pillage the property of loyal citizens as they will do if allowed to escape.

By order of Brig. Gen. John S. Winder
by W. S. Winder, Adj. General

"At that time", says Williams who was there and should know, "of issuing this unparalleled order, the maimed, wounded and starving prisoners who would have been the victims of its execution, numbered more than 30,000 men who had left comfortable homes to fight loyally for their country. This order, and many more as cruel and diabolical, constituted the threats by which the rebel authorities hoped to deter any attempt of rescue or attempt by us to free ourselves from living death, torture and murder.

And now we are besought to conciliate, to forgive and forget, and to surrender the government we helped to save, to them who sought to destroy it by a murderous warfare unheard of before in a civilized country.

Well, you can enroll my name with the rest of the boys. We have that privilege left to us, at any rate. You may conclude I am a Union man, and you may bet I am.

I was captured at Chicamauga September 20, 1863, and exchanged November, 1864, after fourteen months of imprisonment.

If any man wants me to forget that, he is no friend of the soldier."

—From Milwaukee Telegram

Read About Andersonville

Should any of our readers be interested in the details of the Andersonville stockade, the privations, hardships, and terror endured by the Union prisoners of war unfortunate enough to have been incarcerated therein and; the investigation, trial and execution of the commandant, Captain Wirtz, the book in the Columbus Library previously mentioned, "The Report of the Monument Commission", will enlighten you.

We have traced, in considerable detail, the five Columbus men who first faced enemy fire. It would be impractical, if not impossible to follow the activities of the 500 or more soldiers from this area, and the five mentioned are typical of those who followed.

The Draft

During the three Drafts of 1863-64-65, less than 11,000 conscripted men were taken in Wisconsin as the quotas were kept well filled by volunteers.

Columbus and the area can well be proud of its War record, not only in the war between the states, but in subsequent wars.

A post of the Grand Army of the Republic, the G.A.R., was organized several years before the turn of the century, and was first called the Frank A. Haskell Post, but was later changed to the Harvey M. Brown Post.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By
F. A. STARE
INSTALLMENT 328

October 24, 1957



A Monument Is Erected

By action of this Post taken in July 1894, a movement was started to collect the necessary funds to erect a monument to the "Boys in Blue". The monument was erected near the corner of Broadway and School streets about where the flag pole in front of the school now is. It was unveiled and dedicated at special services on Memorial Day, May 30, 1895, with Miss Dollie Brown, now Mrs. Nelson Webster, doing the unveiling. The principal address was given by the Hon. W. D. Hoard, once a resident of Columbus, and who, later, became Governor of Wisconsin.

Mayor at that time was G. W. Coles, an attorney, who formally presented the monument to the G.A.R.

On it are inscribed the names of Civil War soldiers from hereabouts, who fill unknown graves on southern battlefields.

Some years later the monument was damaged, and when repaired, was moved to its present location in front of the Library.

Units In Which Area Men Served

From page 580 Columbia County History (1880) Roster of Columbia County Civil War soldiers, we find one or more were in the following: Heaviest enrollments were in the 7th, 18th, and 23rd regiments; similar information from Calamus, Elba and Portland, Dodge Co., and York and Bristol, Dane Co., not available. The units were 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 29th, 32nd, 33rd, 36th, all infantry; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Cavalry, and some artillery.

However we know from other research that a limited number were in 4th Cav., 5th Cav., 1st Heavy Artillery, 36th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 44th, 46th, 49th, 50th, and 51st Infantry.

Additional Units Later

All units up to and including the 34th were formed in 1861, 1862 and 1863. In 1864, the 4th year of the war, units from the 35th to 43rd were established and from the 44th to 53rd inclusive were organized in 1865, the fifth and final year of the war. And every one of the 53 Wisconsin Regiments, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Cavalry and the thirteen independent Batteries of Wisconsin Light Artillery and the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery all participated in active service in various parts of the East, Central and Western sections of activity.

Governor Lewis and Four Others, Act

In March, 1864, when General Grant was put in charge of all Union forces, in all sections of the country, and was winning ground on most of the fronts, the Governors of five Western States, Lewis of Wisconsin, Yates of Illinois, Mor-

ton of Indiana, Stone of Iowa and Brough of Ohio held a conference to determine in what way they could be of greater service to President Lincoln.

As a result, they evolved a plan which they took to Washington to present to President Lincoln.

The Proposal

In substance, it was, "We propose to furnish the Federal Government, within twenty days from the date of acceptance of this proposition, 100,000 men to be known as 100 day men, to serve on guard and outpost duty, 100 days unless sooner discharged, receiving no bounty, and being charged or credited to no draft."

Mr. Lincoln did not seem to be favorably impressed, and doubted the practicability, but said, "he would think it over," and "if I thought that would help us win, I'd go for it."

The five governors called next morning to learn what decision had been reached. Mr. Lincoln without further discussion said, "Boys, I've concluded to go for it. Send the men in" and gave the following endorsement. "The foregoing proposition of the five Governors is accepted and the secretary of war is directed to carry it into execution."

Lincoln Expresses Appreciation

Later, in a private letter to Gov. Lewis, he wrote, "I did not fully appreciate that plan when it was first proposed, but if Grant hadn't had these men I don't know how he could have got through and taken Richmond."

Wis. Quota Three Regiments

Wisconsin's quota of the 100,000 men was three regiments, the 39th, 40th and 41st, Wis. Vol. Infy. The 39th left the state for Memphis, June 13, 1864, arriving on the 17th and were assigned to guard duty. The Adjutant General report fails to include a casualty list, if any, for the 39th.

Under Fire

The 40th, was the second of the 100 day regiments and left Camp Randall for Memphis June 14th, arriving on the 19th. They were added to the 2nd Brigade, district of Memphis in which were the 46th Iowa, a 100 day regiment, and the 37th Iowa, known as the "Greybeards".

Their camp was on the Pigeons Roost Road, and their duty was to assist in holding the outer city defenses.

August 21st when the Confederate Cavalry leader General Forrest made a raid and penetrated into the very heart of Memphis, Union held, the 40th was ordered to support a Union Battery which was engaged with the enemy. This was the one and only fight in which the 40th was engaged, in which four were wounded.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 329

October 31, 1957



Fever Rampant

During the month of August the entire regiment suffered very seriously from sickness. On the 15th of that month there were 223 on the sick list, of whom 60 were in the hospital.

Their camp was on low ground not far from the Mississippi River, with bad water, which probably caused their sickness.

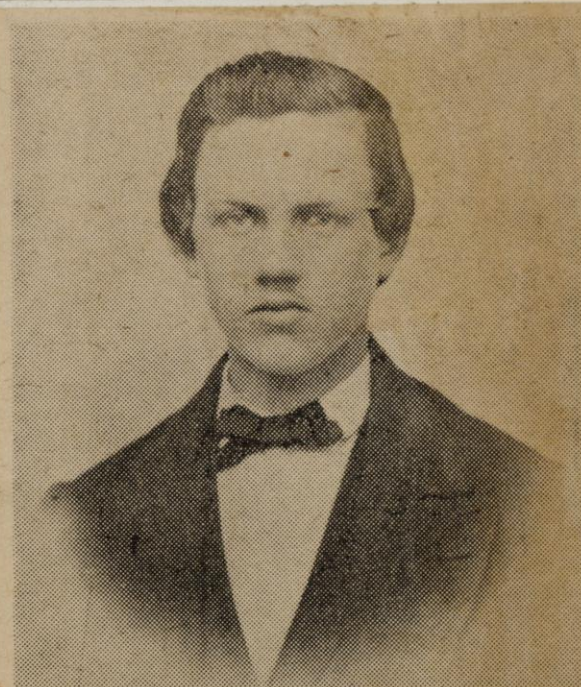
The Regiment was mustered out September 16, 1864, at Madison. This 100 day regiment was made up, almost entirely of students from the various schools, colleges, and the universities of the state. One correspondent advises that "the wave of patriotism went through the University" and practically every student volunteered, or so many that school closed.

One of them was Asher Starkweather, 22-year-old son of Martin B. Starkweather, of Columbus.



Asher Starkweather

The 41st was the third regiment of 100 day volunteers, and consisted of only seven companies, not enough to become a full regiment, and therefore not entitled to be headed by a full colonel, its commanding officer being Lieut. Co. George B. Goodwin of Menasha.



Seymour Sawyer

Four men from Columbus were in this unit,

Seymour A. Sawyer, Milton Silsbee, Chas. W. Everson, and Harvey Rowell.

This unit was camped near the 40th and likewise had many sick. Seymour A. Sawyer of Columbus died of fever in Milwaukee shortly after being mustered out, and before he could be brought home.

A dozen or more from Columbus were in the 42nd to the 53rd Wis. Regiment, some in 1864 and others in 1865, and saw very little service, but all undergoing much sickness from bad water and bad sanitation, and according to some published accounts, indifferent to bad medical care.

400 Died Of Disease To 3 Killed

The following list of the last 14 Wisconsin Regiments published list of casualties, will illustrate:

Unit Name	Died of	
	Killed	Died of
	Wounds	Disease
40th	0	13
41st	0	6
42nd	0	54
43rd	2	70
44th	0	57
45th	0	26
46th	0	13
47th	0	34
48th	0	16
49th	0	47
50th	1	42
51st	0	16
52nd	0	6
53rd	No figures available	

This indicated a total of 3 killed, one died of wounds, and 400 died of disease, a horrible thing indeed.

Contrasted with the above the Wisconsin Cavalry suffered as follows:

Unit Name	Killed	Died of Wounds	Died of Disease
1st Wis. Cavalry	54	18	293
2nd Wis. Cavalry	24	4	265
3rd Wis. Cavalry	79	8	123
4th Wis. Cavalry	96	31	261

A total: 253 killed; 61 died of wounds and 942 of disease.

Not included in figures shown are those who died in Confederate Prisons. We have checked only Andersonville, Ga., which was a stockade enclosure without buildings other than crude shelters built by prisoners themselves, and with the only water supply a muddy swampy creek befouled by a Confederate camp a few miles up stream.

Andersonville

Andersonville functioned only about a year and a half, during which time towards the last there were as many as 30,000 Union prisoners confined there.

Prisoners taken in the Eastern Campaigns in 1864-65 were incarcerated there, and a relatively

small number of Wisconsin units fought in the East toward the close of the war, because of geographical location our troops throughout the entire war, and especially the last year and a half were in the Western and Central Theaters.

Approximately 12,000 Union soldiers died in Andersonville, and of them, through such inadequate records available to us for checking, we have counted no less than 160 Wisconsin deaths, several of whom were from this area.

Frank A. Haskell

Frank A. Haskell, of Columbus, was among the early enlistees, and was assigned to 6th Wis. when that regiment was organized, as 1st Lieutenant of Company I, known as the Anderson Guards. He became Adjutant, and progressed, as later regiments were organized, became Colonel of the 36th when it was organized early in 1864. Major in this regiment was Harvey M. Brown, of Columbus, (father of Mrs. Dolly Brown Webster of this city), whose previous experience was a year in the 31st regiment.

The regiment left Madison May 10, 1864 for Washington, D. C. and immediately upon arrival took position in the Army of the Potomac, just before the battle of Spotsylvania in which they served first as reserve and then in actual combat in the several engagements in that area.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 330

November 7, 1957



Cold Harbor

By the time of the battle of Cold Harbor, the 36th had been under fire, but their losses had not been heavy. Four companies were put into the skirmish line, and advanced to within 400 yards of the enemy's lines, a strong line of earth works, with cannon placed well in front.

These four companies, under command of Capt. Warner, advanced at the double quick; their companions both to the right and the left, although composed of seasoned troops, soon gave way and fell back, but the skirmisher of the 36th pressed forward under a most terrific fire of "grape" from the guns, and musketry from the front, and an oblique fire from both right and left concentrated on them.

Of the 240 men of the 36th who so gallantly advanced in this charge, 140 men were killed, wounded or captured; the six other companies, which fell back, had about 50 men wounded.

The regiment marched all night and arrived at Cold Harbor the next morning, June 2. In the advance on the 3rd the 36th moved from the rear to the front of the brigade.

Col. Haskell Assumes Command

The brigade commander was killed and Col. Haskell assumed command, and Major Brown to Lieut. Col. of the 36th.

Acting Brig. General Haskell had just issued a command to his men to lie down to escape the scathing fire that was fast sweeping them away, when he, himself was shot dead with a bullet through the head. The 36th had 144 casualties, killed and wounded.

The GAR Post of Columbus was first named in honor of Frank A. Haskell, but later changed to the Harvey M. Brown Post.

Harvey M. Brown

Harvey M. Brown (see installments 94-95) enlisted and helped to organize Co. I, Wisconsin 31st Vol. Infantry of which he became 1st Lieut. under Capt. John B. Vleit of Milwaukee. Companies A to F were organized in late 1862—and G-H-I-K in January 1863. Final organization completed January 18. They left the state for active service on March 1, 1863, and upon arrival at Columbus, Kentucky, they were assigned to the Sixth Division of Sixteenth Army Corps and ordered into camp at Fort Halleck.

During the summer they suffered much sickness in July and August they lost from disease over thirty.

They participated in various maneuvers after the battle of Chickamauga. They were stationed briefly, at two or three different points in the Nashville area and on October 25 were moved to Murfreesboro, with three companies at Stone River erecting fortifications and guarding the Railroad Bridge.

In April, 1864, the 31st was transferred to the fourth division, 20th Corps and stationed in various spots protecting thirty miles of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.

31st To Atlanta

Next move was in June they joined Sherman's Army in the trenches before Atlanta and later in the march to the sea, the 31st performed their full share in destroying railroads, building corduroy roads over swamps, and heavy foraging for supplies of food.

As new regiments were called for and organized back home, they were of necessity, officered by promoting officers from earlier regiments, and experienced in the field.

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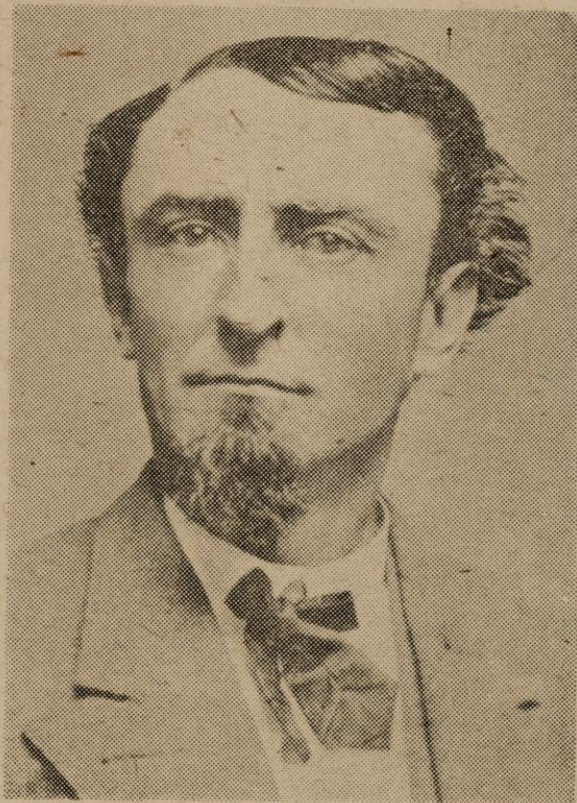
Thus it was that Harvey M. Brown 1st Lieut. in Co. I of the 31st who had been in service since January 1863, was re-called early in 1864 to become Major in the 36th as previously mentioned, having been commissioned by Governor James T. Lewis.

36th Goes East

In all the fierce battles and terrible experiences that befell the 36th, which had been attached to the Army of the Potomac, shortly after Cold Harbor, where Col. Haskell was killed. Major Brown, now Lt. Col., participated until he fell

fearfully wounded in front of Petersburg, Va.

He was left for dead upon the field, and lay for an entire day between the lines, while savage fighting was going on all around and over him. His mangled body, almost lifeless was finally removed under cover of darkness. After days of indescribable suffering he regained sufficient strength to be removed to his home. Ever after he frequently suffered from the effects of the wounds he received while fighting with Grant, in the memorable summer of 1864.



Harvey M. Brown

20th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry

This regiment was recruited in June and July of 1862—assembled and trained at Camp Randall, Madison. Officered by men that had been promoted from regiments in the field, had been under fire and had shown ability and were capable of leadership. Several of the companies were predominantly German.

Only about twenty were from Columbia County and they were from the western part. August Fritz, father of Wm. L., Ed, Eli, Elnora and Mrs. George Lange was at that time a resident of Jefferson County, having come to the U. S. in 1846 as a child. He enlisted in a Watertown Company E, when he was twenty-one years of age. John Weber was captain, Fred Kusel, 1st Lieut. and Chas. A. Menges, 2nd Lieut.

August Fritz went through the war from date of enlistment to final mustering out at Galveston, Texas, without being wounded but he had a siege of typhoid fever from which he nearly died, as there was no hospital facilities available, and the sick had to be transported in mule drawn wagons behind the lines.

He participated in the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark. where the Confederates had between 25,000 and 30,000 men, and the Union forces only 11,000 in which the 20th Wis. lost 57 killed, 36 died of wounds, many more wounded than killed, and throughout the war in various areas a total of 134 died of disease. The regiment remained in Arkansas, participating in several minor engagements. On June 3, 1863, they marched to Rolla, Mo., taking train to St. Louis where they embarked on the S. S. Empress, for Young's Point, Louisiana, a few miles north of Vicksburg. After the fall of Vicksburg they were in various places in different southern Gulf States.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE
INSTALLMENT 331

November 14, 1957



August Fritz

Mr. Fritz kept a diary from June 21, 1863 until late in 1864, written in German, which was translated into English by Mr. H. O. Ihlenfeldt and published by Wilma Fritz Black. In a subsequent story about the Fritz family, the diary and more details of his war experience will be published.

Dr. Bartley's father from the southwestern part of Wisconsin ran away from home to join the Army and was also in the battle of Prairie Grove. We have no knowledge of the unit but understand that it was a Missouri unit.

Also the great grandfather of Dr. Chas. Shearer and Mrs. "Bob" Poser, fought at Prairie Grove, the unit to which he belonged has not been ascertained.

It has frequently been said that the village of Fall River supplied more soldiers for the Union Army than any other place of similar size in the Union. The roster of Columbia County Civil War soldiers published in 1880 in Columbia County History, the oldest we have, is far from complete. For example, in the list by townships, very few show soldiers in any regiment beyond the 32nd. However it is a well known fact, mentioned earlier in this narrative that in the later years of the war many regiments were formed the last one being the 53rd, or twenty more than recorded in the history mentioned. (Also there are some names in the history that are not found herein. Likewise many names in later regiments are reenlistments.)

We have the good fortune to have in our possession, what is probably as good a list of soldiers from the Fall River area as there is anywhere, loaned to us for reproduction herein, by Mr. Ralph Pratt, of Columbus, Service Officer in this area.

There are some duplications by comparing with some other lists in which several men are credited to Columbus and frequently we learn from newspaper items of that time, that young men frequently went elsewhere to enlist if there was any chance of getting enrolled earlier.

Also there are several names on the list of men who enlisted in other states but came to the Fall River area after the war was over, becoming members of the G. A. R. Post.

Here is the list: Bethazer Kapp Co. H 2nd Cavalry.

Co. E 3rd Cavalry

Nelson Brayton, George Bliss, Judson Brown, William Conger, Alexander Conger, Thomas V. Dunn, Wayne B. Dyer, Chas H. Green, Alvin M. Hastings, Willard P. Marsh, Frederic A. Martin, Milo W. Martin, David R. Potter, Franklin Russell, Leonard B. Sage, Barber Sillsbie.

CO. M 4th Cavalry

William Butler, Cyrus Baker, Jerome S. Comar, Frank Hopkins, Jacob Jacobson, John Johnson, Jabez A. King, Willie McKinstry, Henry W. Rhodes, Justis H. Williams, Franklin L. Stevens, Francis E. Brossard.

CO. M. 1st Reg. Hvy Art

John R. Crossman, Riley G. Green, Henry W. Hancock, Carlos Hazard, Christian Holster, Andrew J. Hunting, Byron W. Jones, Elias Kaler, Geo. F. McKinley, Jno. L. Passage, Geo. W. Putnam, James W. Smith, Dearborn Taylor, Lumiel Van Dusen, Joshua Welker, Joel S. Williams.

CO. G. 1st Wis. Vol. Inftry.

Charles A. Searls, Edwin Oliver.

CO. A 2nd Wis. Vol. Inftry.

Charles Brooks, Brainerd D. Graves, Charles Haynes, Henry M. Hunting, Henry C. Parker, Joseph H. Smith.

CO. D 5th Inftry.

Otis S. Foster, Zeno Gibbs jr., James B. Wait.

CO. B 7th Inftry.

James H. Hunting, George H. Brayton, Martin C. Hobart, Sandford L. Batchelder, Herbert D. Dyer, Amos Bissett, John Bissett, Eli Bronson, Manley T. Bronson, Spencer H. Bronson, Horace S. Brown, Solomon Bunker, Alfred Carson, Elisha Dean, William H. Dunham, Julius Engleke, Lyman Farrand, Charles E. Foster, Thomas C. George, Ed R. Hancock, James O. Hilker, Harrison Lamson, John D. McMullen, William Meyer, Chas E. Plummer, Louis Privost, Zebulon Russell, William H. Sickles, Charles Sickles, David Snow, Geo. P. Stanton, Azel Stoddard, Henry Taunt, Dexter Titcomb, Joseph Zeeman.

CO. E. 10th Inftry.

James E. Judd

CO. B 11th Inftry.

Geo. W. Brossard, Amb. A. Grout, John Hicks, Francis S. Livermore, William P. Williams.

CO. K. 15th New Jersey Inftry.

Chauncy Rockafellow

14th Wis. Inftry

Geo. E. Talbert

3rd Bat. Light Art.

Henry M. Silsbee, Charles Silsbee

6th Bat. Lt. Art.

Nic L. Sweet

CO. C. 16th Wis. Inftry

Charles P. Clark, Timothy Canary, Herbert W. Fairbanks, Webster A. Fairbanks, Henry Jones, Malcomb McMillen, Hugh W. Owens, Henry C. Thurston, Manley Blount.

CO. I 18th Wis. Inftry

George L. Adams, Elias Schoutler, Lorin G. Bronson, Dobens Bennett, Stephen M. Crossman, John Wood, Theodore Dickerson, John F. Fields, William J. Hughes, John C. Payson, Albert Turck, Philemon Haskins, Dudley Wilcox, C. J. Fernando, C. Councilmen, Co. K. Alonzo H. Russell, Co. C. 19th Wis. Ind. Frederick C. Jones, Co. G. 23rd Wis Inftry, Jonah Jones, Co. G. 23rd Wis Inftry Stephen Chapman, Co. A. 29th Wis. Inftry. Francis A. Smith, Co. E. 29th Wis. Inftry.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 332

November 21, 1957



CO. K 32nd Wis. Inftry

J. E. Grout, Edward H. Bronson, John Walton, Sandford R. Batchelder, Geo. Allen, James S. Babcock, Abraham Bissett, Israel Bissett, Patrick Bruke, Joseph Bissett, Amos Baker, Bengo T. Comer, Chas B. Conger, Freeman H. Coon, John G. Edwards, Michael Foley, Timothy Foley, Henry Fremell, Thomas Gillson, William Grout, Henry W. Hancock, James J. Houghton, Augustus Hoffman, Lewis P. Horton, Nathan W. Hunting, Samuel King, William V. Little, Niel McFayden, Wm. McMullen, Charles I. Machen, Horace O'Brien, Simeon V. Pettis, Dennis Privot, Ruel P. Russell, Henry E. Simpson, Adam S. Sizer, Thomas W. Tasker, Stephen Taunt, Seth Thurber, Frederick Vergails, H. G. Walton, Ethan Warner, Isaac Watson, Lorenzo Welker, Theodore G. Wood, Abraham W. Wood, Alfred W. Wright, Benjamin F. Watson, Nathaniel C. Taylor, Henry Newham, Co. C. 43rd Wis. Inftry.

CO. F. 4th Wis. Inftry

Albert S. Hastings, John Stam, Solomon B. Sage, Washington Loomis, E. T. Kenney, 47th, Joseph D. Castley Co. E. 50th Sewell Bliss, Co. K. 50th.

CO. F. 44th Wis. Inftry

Gilson M. Henton, Gilbert H. Henton, William H. Horton, Henry Mantwill, Geo. W. Sturges, Geo. D. Taylor, Bryon F. Titcomb.

CO. C. 51st Wis. Inftry

William D. Jones, Richard Nash, Fred Thompson, Henry Turner, Geo. C. Farrand, Asa D. Hicks, Egbert Nashold, John A. Whitfeld.

CO. A 52nd Wis. Inftry

David Colville, William Colville, James B. Dunn, Geo. Kirk, Lewis Norton: Wayman Parker Fiske, 25th N. Y. Art; C. Lockwood, Co. E 13th U. S. Regulars; Hiram Marsh Co. C 8th U. S. Regulars.

G. A. R. Post

Fall River, for years had a flourishing Post of the G.A.R., with a membership, it is said, of more than double that of Harvey M. Brown Post in Columbus.

Through the courtesy of Mrs. Dorothy Barnett, a great granddaughter of Washington Loomis, we can show here a picture taken May 31, 1915 of eleven members of Fall River Post.

Also through the remarkable memory of Mrs. Diana Field of Fall River, who is "only" ninety four years of age, we are able to print the names. From left to right they are Horace O'Brien, George Kirk, Tom Dunn, Jule Engleke, Martin C. Hobart, John Crossman, Jim Babcock, Elisha Dean, Washington Loomis, Ed Oliver and Wayman Fiske.



Washington Loomis was the last surviving soldier of the Civil War, in the Fall River area. He died December 2, 1938.

From the Butterfield History of Columbia County published in 1880 to which we refer so often, we re-print a few interesting items concerning Fall River soldiers, that we hope will bring back memories of the past to many of our readers.

"A Reminiscence" Author Unknown

The adventures of the brave boys who fought for our country, would make a volume of massive size, but the following narrative of love and danger should no longer remain hidden in the mass of good things that still remain to be told.

About three miles from the little village of Fall River, in Columbia County, is a successful and highly respected farmer, whose history during the war was full of interest.

Martin C. Hobart

He tried to enter the service under the call for 75,000 men, but was a little too late. Very soon after the second call issued, he enlisted as a member of Co. B. 7th Regiment, and was made third sergeant. The spring of 1862, when Capt. Huntington resigned, George H. Brayton of whom I shall speak hereafter, was made captain, and Sergeant M. C. Hobart, the farmer to whom reference is made, was commissioned First Lieutenant, at the battle of Gainesville.

August 28, 1862, the first engagement of consequence the Iron Brigade, of which the 7th Regiment was a part, participated in, and in which the Brigade fought, for more than two hours, against Ewell's whole division of Stonewall Jackson's famous fighting corps, losing between 800 and 900 men in killed and wounded.

Captain Brayton was shot in the head and immediately expired. Hobart succeeded him as captain at the battle of Gettysburg, where Hobart was conspicuous for coolness, bravery and good management. The brigade lost heavily in prisoners as well as killed and wounded. He was among the prisoners.

He Escapes

On the second day's journeying toward Richmond, and Libby Prison, while crossing the mountains, Capt. Hobart stealthy dodged into

a friendly thicket and in a short time was a free man.

The next day he found his regiment and participated in the chase after Lee's broken, defeated and demoralized army.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 333

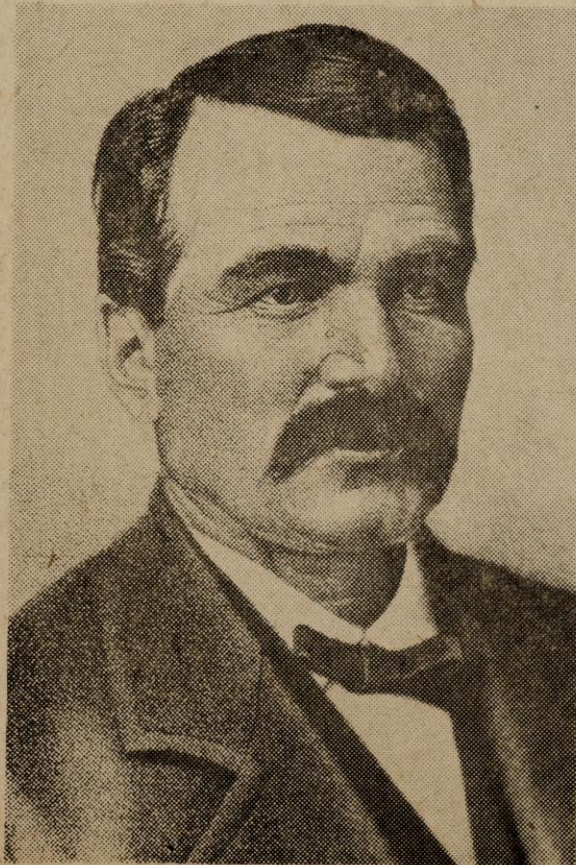
Thursday, Nov. 28, 1957



Another Escape

At the battle of the Wilderness, in May 1864, Capt. Hobart was again made prisoner. Though making several attempts to escape the vigilance of his captors, they all failed, until after he had been a prisoner for some time. It was while at Columbia, S. C. If we mistake not, Hobart, in company with others, made his escape. After many days and nights of fatigue and hardship, that in these days of peace and general comfort would seem unbearable, he was re-captured near the Union lines at Knoxville, Tennessee and taken to Danville, N. C., thence to Libby Prison, Richmond.

He was paroled February 22, 1855, and exchanged, and returned to his regiment in April. Not long after that he was made major of the Seventh, and shortly afterward was made Lieutenant Colonel, with Hallon Richardson of Chippewa Falls, Colonel and George S. Hoyt became Major.



Col. M. C. Hobart

Col. Hobart was severely wounded in one of the many battles in which he participated, and a few inches of bone in his arm was removed. Hobart is as modest and unassuming in his role of successful farmer, as he was brave, modest and unassuming as a soldier.

A complete history of Co. B of the 7th, would make entertaining reading, counting its original members, and the recruits forwarded at various times, there were 140 men.

A great many of them were killed, and nearly everyone that came home bore a bullet, bayonette or shell mark.

Spencer Bronson

Spencer H. Bronson, postmaster at Fall River (as of 1880) a gentleman highly esteemed both as an official and a citizen, was one of its members, who was shot three different times; 1st Gainsville, then at Fredricksburg, and very veriously at the Wilderness in 1864.

Captain George Hyer Brayton

Captain G. H. Brayton, who was killed at Gainsville, entered the army as Orderly Sergeant. He was educated at Lawrence College, and one of the most promising young men in Columbia County. His men just about idolized him, and no young officer in the regiment stood higher. He had a bright future. (See Installment 32, 33 for more about the Brayton family.)

Since the balance of the "Reminiscence" does not pertain to the soldiers of this area we are omitting it.

Wisconsin, Columbia County, and the Columbus area of three counties can well be proud of the War record of its young men in the dark days of the sixties, and all subsequent wars in which our nation has been involved. Let us pray that we, or our children may see the day when war is no more.

Grand Army of the Republic

The writer has been privileged to see the Roster of members of the G.A.R. Harvey M. Brown Post. Apparently the G. A. R. like the American Legion or other patriotic groups was only a part of the soldiers engaged, and without doubt many never became members, for one reason or another. The fact remains that for a decade or a generation after the end of the conflict, the G.A.R. Post held a balance of power, vote wise.

The last local civil war veteran member of the G.A.R. in Columbus was Conrad Koblitz who died November 1, 1934. Washington Loomis the last veteran at Fall River died four years later.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 334

Thursday, December 5



We are pleased to show a picture of the small group of veterans who remained toward the last, taken about 1925.

The names are all given except the man on left seated, who is not known to the writer.

They are left to right, front row: Unknown, Hugh Hall, Lansing Williams, Conrad Koblitz; Back row left to right: Elon Cripps, Julius Engelke, Mr. Phalen (father of Mrs. M. C. Palmer), Robert Bell and Theron Edwards.

Conrad Koblitz

This story should not be closed without something about Conrad Koblitz, the very last of "our boys in blue" from Columbus. He was born in Knappendorf, Bohemia, February 19, 1842, coming to America in 1854, with his parents, and settled in La Crosse, where he lived and worked until he was about 21 years of age, when he enlisted in the Wisconsin Second Cavalry December 28, 1863 and was assigned to Co. H. The original Colonel of the second cavalry was former congressman Cadwalder C. Washburn, who later became a Major General.

According to the Democrat of November 7, 1934, Mr. Koblitz served under General George Custer in Louisiana and Texas, and received his discharge and was mustered out in Austin, Texas, November 15, 1865. This was only shortly before General Custer was ordered to Big Horn, Montana to quell an Indian uprising in which Custer and most of his command were killed.

Before being transferred to Custer's army he had been in the engagements at Red Bone, Clinton, Jackson, Port Gibson, Yazoo City, all in Mississippi. It was then that his regiment of cavalry was transferred to Custer's command to help put down an expected invasion of the French in control of Mexico at that time. When they arrived at Austin, Texas, they learned that Maximilian, representative of the French Emperor, had been captured and shot.

Mr. Koblitz had been on the Grierson expedition from Vicksburg to Ocklona, Miss., to destroy as much rebel property as possible. Storehouses were burned, one of them being full of corn meal; 300 hogs, guarded by rebel soldiers, were destroyed, cotton gins, burned railroads and bridges destroyed.

Before they had reached their destination, and mission accomplished they had captured 600 rebel soldiers and enough horses that even the prisoners could ride.

When his detachment was transferred to General Custer at Alexander, La., Mr. Koblitz was assigned as orderly to the General. However he was later made color bearer, and it was his proud privilege to carry the flag on Memorial Day in Columbus for many years.

Following his discharge, he returned to La Crosse, the place of his enlistment, and he lived and worked in that vicinity until 1881, when he came to Columbus, as his wife was from the area, her people living near Waterloo, in the town of Portland.

He was married in 1866 to Roselia Blaska, and by strange coincidence she was born in the same place in Bohemia that he was.

His wife died at their home in Columbus May 7, 1913 and thereafter Mr. Koblitz made his home with his son Frank. A total of eleven children were born to the couple.

Mr. Koblitz was born and raised and lived as a Catholic, and he was very regular and faithful in his attendance.

He was a member of G.A.R. Harvey M. Brown Post, and was its commander for eight years. Also he was City Marshal here for 16 years.

He was not only the last man, the only Civil War veteran here at the time of his death, but at the time was Columbus' oldest citizen, nearly 93 years old.

We are pleased to show a photograph of Conrad Koblitz.



Should anyone wish to read more about the various units in Wisconsin troops, of the Civil War, the library has a number of good reference books, from one of which "Wisconsin in the War of the Rebellion," by William D. Love, published in 1866 we have gained much more of the information used herein.

(continued next week)

Thursday, Dec. 12, 1957

An Appreciation

Every once in a while we get a letter from an unknown reader, expressing appreciation and pleasure for the continuing "Story of Columbus."

Sometimes we wonder if it is worth the time, effort or expense involved, and how long we should keep it up.

And then comes a letter that removes all doubt from our minds. There is no financial compensation, no funds from which to draw out of pocket expense for such things as postage, stationery, gasoline, telephone calls, etc.

But, there is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that the service we are trying to render, especially to elderly people of the area, and elsewhere is appreciated.

The following letter was received December 5 and we feel sure the writer would have no objection to our publishing it.

F. A. Stare
Columbus, Wis.

Escondido, California

Dear Sir,

I am a stranger to you but as a native son of Fall River I was greatly interested in the picture of the old soldiers and the list of the veterans from there.

It was especially fine to have Mrs. Field's identification of them though I knew all of them personally, and in fact not more than three of the old soldiers in the entire list were strangers to me. My father's picture, J. S. Babcock, was especially good; in the story of Mart. Hobart's capture and escape, I wish to add a bit.

As a boy I used to sit in at the social gatherings at homes during the winter season—nearly all old soldiers, and I distinctly recall that at one of these at our house, Mr. Hobart told how he was taken to the Andersonville prison and after a short stay he escaped and for some days travelling by night, hiding by day and stealing a bit to eat when he could he made his way 200 miles north, when he saw an encampment of soldiers and thinking he had arrived at the Union lines he walked in and found it was a Confederate camp, was again made prisoner and returned to Andersonville.

This does not contradict your story but is evidently another and a very bitter experience.

My grandparents, Thos. Tasker, lived in Columbus many years, in their home adjoining Gov. Lewis' property and I spent many days there and knew many of the people of whom you write.

A minister of the Methodist church, for many years, I am still, at the age of 85, pastor of a church which I have served for many years, but you have helped me back about 75 years to associate with these old folks.

Thanks especially for the visit with the Fall River veterans.

217 E. 5th
Escondido
California

Sincerely,
Ben Babcock

P. S. I pass these articles on to Oscar Geise, whose father formerly owned the Dray Line-horse drawn in Columbus. BB

Unknown Soldier Identified

We have had half a dozen or more telephone calls giving us the name of the Civil War veteran seated farthest left in the front row in last week's paper, who was unknown at time of publication.

His name is William G. Williams, "Bryn-Haffodd" whose farm in Elba was later sold to Richard Griffith. Mr. Williams was unmarried, and died January 5, 1931. He was an uncle of Mrs. Griff Humphrey, the only living relative, whose family moved from Fall River to her uncle's farm when she was only four years old, where she grew up and knew her uncle well.

We have no roster of Civil War veterans from Dodge County so we are unable to state Mr. Williams Company or Regiment.

We thank all who called to give us his name.

Starkweather Family

We recently published a story giving the highlights of the Civil War, as it affected this area and Wisconsin, in which the name Starkweather appeared, he being elected Colonel of the First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and later was a Brigadier General.

While the name Starkweather is not uncommon in Wisconsin, we having run across at least two Starkweathers besides General John C. in our research for the above mentioned article, we also know that there is a prominent business firm of that name in Beaver Dam, the founding of which goes back a long ways, and the name is found in various other parts of Wisconsin.

And we knew also that Columbus once had a citizen of that name, Mr. Martin B. Starkweather, as evidenced by a monument on a lot at Hillside Cemetery.

We were curious to learn whether there was a relationship between the General and the Columbus and/or Beaver Dam Starkweathers.

After some correspondence with Mr. Charles A. Starkweather of Beaver Dam, and with Dr. Benton H. Wilcox, Librarian of the State of Wisconsin Historical Society, Madison, we have a few bits of information of a general nature that should prove to be of interest to those who read "The Story of Columbus." We wish to express our appreciation to the above mentioned, for without their assistance this particular sketch could not have been written.

A Genealogical History

We have been very fortunate in obtaining a copy of a book entitled Genealogical History of Robert Starkweather of Roxbury and Ipswich, Massachusetts, published privately in 1904, a limited edition of only 300 copies, of which the book on loan to the writer is No. 38.

I was compiled by Carlton Lee Starkweather, M. D. Occoquan, Virginia and covers 1130 different individuals from 1640 to 1898, including the husbands and families of the Starkweather daughters. It is a book of 356 pages, and was obtained by Charles A. Starkweather of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, from his cousin Carrie Starkweather Caldwell, of Waupun, Wisconsin to whom we extend our thanks and appreciation.

While it is not necessary to go into much detail we consider a few brief statements, appropriate, and that our readers will be interested to know.

Robert Starkweather (1)

A man named Robert Starkweather, a colonist, settled in Roxbury, Mass. as early as 1640, but there is no record of his forebears, or the date of his birth, or in fact whether he was from Wales, Scotland, or the Isle of Man. There is every indication of extreme poverty as witness the following from the town records.

"At a meeting of the 7 men (the selectmen) on the 34th of March 1673, greed with Robert Starkweather to keep the flock of sheep at the "Neck", from the first of April, till the middle of November, be to pay for any sheep killed

ed by leaving out in the night, or king in the daytime, and to have for his wages seven shilling Y weeke, to be payed by the owners of the sheepe, he to look carefully, to "dog" them when there is need. Those that pay in malt to pay it at Capt. Appletons or Cornett Whipples, and those that pay in other corne, to pay it at Cornett Whipples, for his use. He to cense the pen once a month, and in wett whether to remove them into a pen of five rayles, he lodging them when fouled there, those that shall not pay as aforesayed by the last of February to pay halfe soe much more, being demanded."

Robert Starkweather was married (date unknown) to Jennet Roberts, a daughter of John Roberts of Roxbury, and later moved to Ipswich, where he died.

All of his children were born there (Roxbury) but with dates not given. The church baptismal records indicate Elizabeth in 1643; Lidea 1644; John (only son) 1646; Deborah 1648. (There is another entry which says, "There were four other children, and perhaps more, according to tradition, as stated in Vol. IV of Savage's Genealogical Dictionary.)

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 336

Thursday, Dec. 19, 1957



Apparently he died in 1674 as here is an inventory from Essex County Probate records, Salem, Mass., November 1674. Copied in the quaint spelling of that period. The values of each item are shown in Pounds, Shillings, Pences:

The values of each item are shown in Pounds, Chillings, Pences:	
The house and barn and fensing	12-0-0
In corne	13-0-0
In hempe	02-10-0
Thre Lods Haye	01-8-0
In Swine	02-5-0
Three sheepe	01-0-0
A cheest and the linen in it	03-0-0
And all his weering cloose	04-17-8
A peere of shoese	00-04-0
A Beed and all things belong to it	07-0-0
A sword and beelt	01-00-0
In brass and puetter	00-15-0
Andall othor housal stoff	03-13-0
Two bushells of hemp seed	00-8-0
His tooles about his tread	00-12-0
A hachel	00-10-0
4 beed cords	00-12-0
A plow and a size	00-14-00
A sadell	0-06-0
	59-00-2

Amos

Skipping to the 5th generation from Robert (1) we come to Amos Starkweather, who was born in Killingly, Conn. in 1763. Married in 1792 to Betsey Benjamin, who was born in Alabama, N. Y. in May 1773.

They became parents of four daughters and seven boys. Martin (6), next to the youngest was born in Chathan, N. J. July 1, 1812.

Amos, at the age of 16, was drafted in to the Continental Revolutionary Army, but after three months service, his father was able to "purchase a substitute", who was later killed in battle.

Martin B. Starkweather (6)

Martin B. Starkweather, for many years a resident of Columbus, learned the trade of carpenter, and especially, that branch known as Bridge building as in his day most bridges were wooden structures, many of them enclosed or covered. He was one of the 6th generation from Robert (1), John (2), Richard (3), Nathan (4) and Amos (5).

He was married four times, the first time to Mary Bachelor, in 1844; his second wife was Celestia Whitney, year unknown; his third marriage was to Laura Rhodes, and the fourth was Ursula B. Smith of Somerset, N. Y., and very shortly afterward they moved to Wisconsin, date of marriage unknown.

Martin B. Starkweather had three children, two sons, Asher and Courtney, full brothers, and daughter Jennie, considerably younger, a half sister of the sons.

The genealogy previously mentioned does not give dates of birth but mentions the names only.

Mr. Charles A. Starkweather, of Beaver Dam, advises that his father Courtney, was born in Alabama, N. Y., April 18, 1845, and was therefore born to the first wife, and since both sons were full brothers, Asher, the older brother, must also have been born to Mary Bachelor.

There seems to be a discrepancy as to dates, for those shown on the grave stone at Hillside indicate that Asher was born December 10, 1841. According to Mr. Charles Starkweather, his father Courtney was born April 18, 1845 and according to the published genealogy Martin was married to his first wife Mary in 1844, which is doubtless incorrect, and should be considered as 1840.

Also, Mr. Charles Starkweather has the impression that his grandfather, Martin, was married to Ursula Smith in Columbus, while the genealogy says "married fourth time to Ursula Smith of Somerset, N. Y., and they moved to Columbus, Wisconsin."

We do not know date of birth of their daughter Jennie, who became the wife of William

J. Bell and lived in De Smet, South Dakota. Charles Starkweather says he thinks his Aunt Jennie was born in Columbus.

A Tragedy

He also writes "when Martin Starkweather left N. Y. state with his two sons, Asher and Courtney, one of the reasons was that he was continually haunted by the tragedy that caused the death of his first wife, the mother of his sons.

"She frequently had stomach trouble, and the doctor had given her medicine to take when relief was needed."

One night she awakened her husband and asked him to get her medicine, and also that it would not be necessary to light a candle or lamp, telling him just where it was. He got the bottle but it proved to be the wrong one. It was deadly poison and she died in two hours.

Goes West

After his fourth marriage, he decided to pull out and go west where building was more active, first going to Ypsieanti, Michigan where a brother had established himself but he found no work as a bridge builder. Learning of railroad activity in Wisconsin, by corresponding, that a job was available at Mud Lake, Dodge County, where the Milwaukee and Watertown Ry. Company were building a trestle bridge across a large marsh.

He, with his family, came by lake boat to Milwaukee, thence to Sheboygan and by stage coach to Fond du Lac. He had a cousin living four miles from Fond du Lac, and they walked to his place where he stopped about three months to help build a barn. It was now winter, so he built a sled, bought a horse, loaded their personal belongings and set out for Columbus by way of Beaver Dam, picking his way between the stumps where there was no road.

Date of Arrival Uncertain

We have no record of the year; but if Mr. Mr. Starkweather came here to work on the Railroad at Mud Lake it was probably prior to 1856 as we find an item in the Journal of August 1856 stating that the R. R. Co. had two pile drivers driving piles at Mud Lake and that they would likely be laying track before long.

The first passenger train to enter Columbus reached here in May 1857.

We have searched the newspapers through all of 1856 and up to August of 1857, including the list of uncalled for letters at the Post Office, published at irregular intervals, and find no references to Martin Starkweather.

First Abode Not Known

It is not known in what house they lived when they first came here, but Charles Starkweather pointed out the house built by his grandfather, and where he used to visit as a boy. The house at the N. W. corner of Charles and Prairie, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moy, 246 Charles St. better known to older citizens as the Hugh Hall house, is the house built by Martin Starkweather.

He bought a portion of Block 11, consisting of lots 1-2-3-8-9-10, in 'Lewis' addition to the village of West Columbus, all fronting footage facing Charles St., between Prairie and the Alley now called Narrow st. from James T. Lewis on December 21, 1861, for a consideration of \$200.00. The house was probably built early in 1862. He and his family occupied it until his death in March 1890.

The heirs sold the house and vacant lots to Hugh Hall April 18, 1890 for a consideration of \$2700.

The adjoining house 236 S. Charles st., now owned by the John Pratt's, was built for Mrs. A. H. Whitney after the death of her husband; was later owned by Jack Murray and for several years by John Pratt.

The vacant lot, corner of Charles and Narrow sts. is still owned by the only surviving heir of Hugh Hall, his youngest daughter Ellen, Mrs. Earl Rueter, route 4, Columbus.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 337

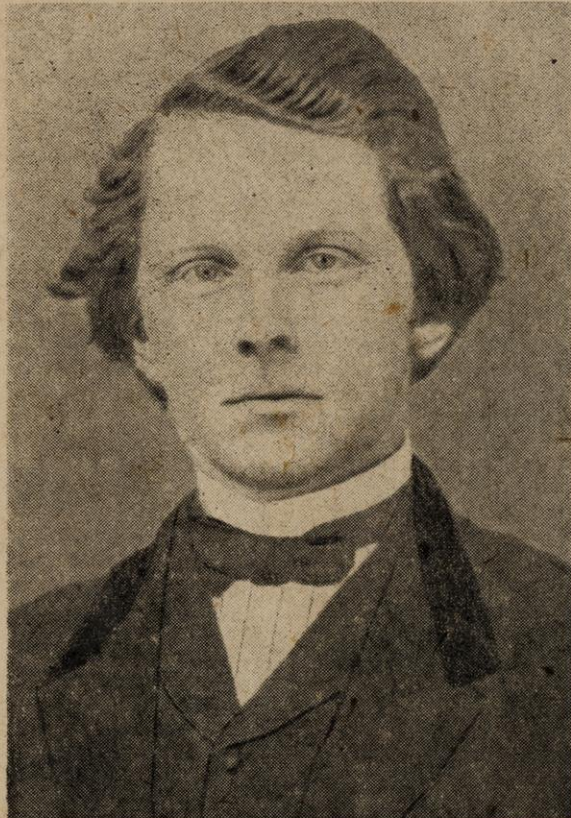
Thursday, Dec. 26, 1957



Asher Starkweather (7)

The name Asher appears in the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th generations, in the geneology, the 7th being the Asher, son of Martin, buried at Hillside cemetery, Columbus.

As noted in the recent Civil War Story, Asher enlisted in the Union Army late in the war



Asher Starkweather

while a student at the University and died of fever near Memphis, Tennessee August 1864 at the age of 23 years, 6 months and 10 days. His body was brought home to Columbus by his brother Courtney, with burial on the family lot in which Mrs. Martin Starkweather was buried in July 1875, and Martin, his father, in 1890.

Ursula B. Starkweather

Mrs. Martin B. Starkweather, the former Ursula B. Smith died in Columbus, at the family residence, Tuesday, July 27, 1875, at the age of 51 years.

From her obituary in the Columbus Democrat, July 21, 1875 we take a few words. "She had been sick almost three years with pulmonary and other afflictions.

She was married to Mr. Martin Starkweather in the state of New York and moved with him to Columbus, and here she endeared herself to all of her acquaintances.

She joined the M. E. church here in 1859 and was an active member as long as health permitted.

Her dying words to her husband, children, friends and pastor will never be forgotten.

She said that her trust in her Saviour was unshaken, and that her faith was the one thing needful. The funeral at the M.E. church on Wednesday at 10½ A. M. was largely attended, and the sermon by Rev. H. Sewell was feeling and appropriate."

Martin's Death

Het husband died at his home in Columbus, March 12, 1890, at which time the Columbus Democrat of March 14, 1890 said, "The old familiar countenance of Martin B. Starkweather has been seen on the streets of Columbus for the last time. He closed his eyes in death at his home in the First Ward, at 5 o'clock on last Wednesday morning, the 12th after an illness of three weeks duration, of the nature of pneumonia. His age was nearly 78. Funeral occurred today."

Courtney Starkweather (7)

Courtney, second son of Martin was born in Alabama, N.Y. April 18, 1845, being of the 7th generation from Robert (1). Courtney was about eleven or twelve years of age when his father, Martin came to Wisconsin (depending on the year of arrival which is not definitely known). He attended school, learned the carpenter trade under his father, as did other young men. His friend Washington Loomis, then of Columbus, and a son of carpenter Warren Loomis of Columbus, also worked, at times, for Mr. Martin Starkweather.

Courtney met with an accident, when he fell from a broken scaffold, seriously injuring his back, which prevented climbing and working aloft. Later, after his friend Washington Loomis had established himself in Fall River, Courtney joined him there in a partnership in a shop building wagons, buggies, sleighs, plows, etc., that stood between the canal from Fall River Pond to the Mill, and the eastern corner of that block, which building stood until comparatively recent times.

Courtney continued to reside with his father's family even though his work was in Fall River, and it was during this period that he met the young woman who became his wife. Miss Adelaide Eggleston, of Fox Lake was visiting a married sister, Mrs. Price who lived in Columbus, and an acquaintance begun then, developed into their marriage Nov. 15, 1871 in Fox Lake. His father Charles Eggleston, had been a soldier in the Civil War, and sustained a serious wound. Upon his return and recovery he started a lumber yard in Fox Lake.

Some time after his marriage, Courtney learned through his brother-in-law, that a lumber yard in Beaver Dam, which had been started in 1856 by a Mr. Hodgeman, was for sale.

He went to Beaver Dam, and after looking the situation over, bought the yard. This was in 1874 and was the beginning of the present C. (for Courtney) Starkweather and son building and building material firm.

The business of C. Starkweather and Son, which was acquired from a Mr. Hodgeman in 1874, was started by Mr. Hodgeman in 1856. Mr. Hodgeman stayed on and worked for his successor for many years, so it could truthfully be considered that the business is over a hundred years old.

Mr. Courtney Starkweather, died in Beaver Dam, March 1, 1931, at the age of 86. Upon the walls of the office of C. Starkweather & Son there hangs a fine crayon portrait of Mr. Starkweather, that we reproduce herein.

Mrs. Courtney Starkweather

Mrs. Courtney Starkweather, who was Miss Adelaide Eggleston was one of six children born to T. D. Eggleston, and his wife Miss D. E. Austin. Their first born child was a son, Charles H. Eggleston, born in Oxfordshire, England who was born August 4, 1835 and was brought to the U.S. by his parents in 1836 and lived in Syracuse, N.Y. for two years when they came to Milwaukee in 1838.

Mr. T. D. Eggleston built the first Light-House in Wisconsin, and helped build the original capital at Madison. He then moved to a 160 acre farm near Prairieville (now Waukesha) although he continued to work at his trade, stone mason contractor.

In 1855 he moved his family to Fox Lake, Wisconsin where he had taken a contract to build the Wisconsin Female College (which later became the present Downer College at Milwaukee).

In 1863-4 he built the Ottawa University at Ottawa, Kansas, leaving the family at home in Fox Lake.

His son Charles H. enlisted in the 29th W.V.I. and fought under Gen'l Grant at Vicksburg; was on the Red River Expedition and at Port Gibson was seriously wounded when a minie ball shattered his shoulder.

One of the daughters, Frances, became the wife of J. M. Price a Columbus merchant. It was while Adelaide was visiting her sister Mrs. Price, that she met her future husband.

Her brother Charles who went into the lumber yard business in Fox Lake, after returning to Civil life, was married in October 1866 to Miss Susan Blaisdell, of Bennington, N.Y. suggested to Courtney Starkweather that he buy Mr. Hodgeman's lumber yard in Beaver Dam.

Their Children

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Starkweather became the parents of two children Charles A. born Nov. 26, 1877 and a daughter Bessye M. born Aug. 16, 1883. Both are still living. Miss Bessye is unmarried and lives at 406 N. Spring St., Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Charles A. Starkweather

Charles A. Starkweather was born Nov. 26, 1877 and was married to Miss Cora Belle Winn, June 24, 1901. They had two children, Evelyn Grace born March 10, 1903 and a son, Courtney Winn, born March 10, 1908, who died in an airplane crash June 4, 1942.

Charles grew up and attended elementary school in Beaver Dam. His advance education was received at Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, instead of in the high school. After finishing at Wayland in 1898, he then attended Spencerian Business College in Milwaukee for the full business course in 1899.

He then entered the building material and construction business established by his father under the name of C. Starkweather in 1847 to which the words "and son" was added in 1900.

Mrs. Charles Starkweather

As stated above, he was married in 1901 to Miss Cora Bell Winn, his school days sweetheart, at West Chesterfield, New Hampshire.

Her father, Mr. Winn, an experienced wool finisher, came from New Hampshire to take charge of the operation of the Woolen Mills in Beaver Dam, where he and his family remained for some years, where his daughter Cora Bell attended Wayland. The Winn family returned to their former home in New Hampshire, where after he had become somewhat established in the family business built up by his father, Charles went to New Hampshire to claim his bride.

The young couple established their home in Beaver Dam where their first born child, a daughter named Evelyn Grace, was born March 10, 1903. Their second was a son Courtney Winn, who was born March 10, 1908.

After a long illness Cora Bell Winn, Mrs. Charles A. Starkweather died April 25, 1916.

His Second

Charles was married to his second wife Maude Deuel, May 2, 1917. She was born in Alabama, New York (where Charles' grandfather Martin B. was born), April 28, 1879, and died in an automobile accident July 9, 1939.

And Third

He married his third and present wife, Mrs. Cora Bell Nihil, a widow on September 27, 1941.

The mother of Charles Starkweather, and the mother of Mrs. Starkweather, maiden name Hawes, were school mates at Fox Lake Seminary, which consisted of Wisconsin Female College and a Classical Academy for young men, and a normal Dept.

Miss Cora Bell Hawes, was born October 5, 1886 and was married to Harry J. Nihil June 14, 1929, who died May 30, 1934. They lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where the widow continued to reside until her marriage to Mr. Starkweather. There were two Nihil daughters from a previous marriage, Margaret E. born October 25, 1913 and Frances M. born May 14, 1919, both now married and living in Minnesota.

The Business

The present business of C. Starkweather and Son, has expanded to large proportions, having in addition to a lumber yard, a manufacturing mill, a construction department and at one time was the owner of four Lannon Stone quarries for building stone, near Lannon.

When Henry Ford built Dearborn Village, Michigan some seventy or more car loads of facing stone was shipped across the lake by the Starkweather quarries and used in the construction of many buildings.

The loss of his son Courtney in an airplane crash in 1942 was a severe blow to Charles as he had always counted on his son to succeed him as the head of the business when he retired.

Charles is still active, on a part time basis, and is almost always at the office for a part of each working day.

Mrs. Wickman (9)

Evelyn Grace Starkweather, born March 10, 1903 grew up in Beaver Dam, and September 21, 1926 was married to Edwin Ira Wickman, who was born October 9, 1902 and died at their home in Oshkosh January 18, 1957.

They became parents of one daughter and two sons, as follows. Corinne Frances, born July 1, 1927, and was married September 30, 1955 to Mr. Fred James Menser, they live in Oshkosh.

Their son Charles August Menser, was born June 18, 1931, and on Aug. 2, 1952 he was married to Delores Raddatz. They have one daughter JoAnne Beverly, born August 9, 1957. They also live in Oshkosh.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 338

Thursday, Jan. 2, 1958



The youngest son is James Courtney, born October 31, 1934, who on August 15, 1954 was married to Marion Liljevall. They have a son Bruce James, born February 19, 1956. Their home is 1696 West Minnehaha, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The mother, Evelyn Grace, Mrs. Wickman, continues to reside in the family home, 375 Merritt Street, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

COURTNEY WINN STARKWEATHER

Courtney Winn Starkweather, second child and only son of Charles A. Starkweather and Cora Bell Winn Starkweather, was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin March 10, 1908. Courtney attended Beaver Dam High School and Ripon College. He was married September 1, 1928 to Miss Evelyn Beulah Schultz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Antone Schultz of Beaver Dam.

Courtney entered the firm of C. Starkweather and Son, with every intention of eventually taking over the management, when his father retired, but such was not to be.

He became keenly interested in aviation, learned to fly, and died in a crash of his own plane June 4, 1942.

Mr. and Mrs. Courtney Winn Starkweather became parents of two children, Patricia Lou, born October 26, 1932, who was married in 1951 to



Thomas William Killeen, of Beaver Dam. They have two children Deborah Ann, born July 16, 1952 and Courtney William (11), born August 29, 1955.

Second child of Courtney and Evelyn Starkweather is a daughter Carlene Courtney, born July 21, 1940, who when not attending school, is at home with her mother, the widow who has not remarried.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

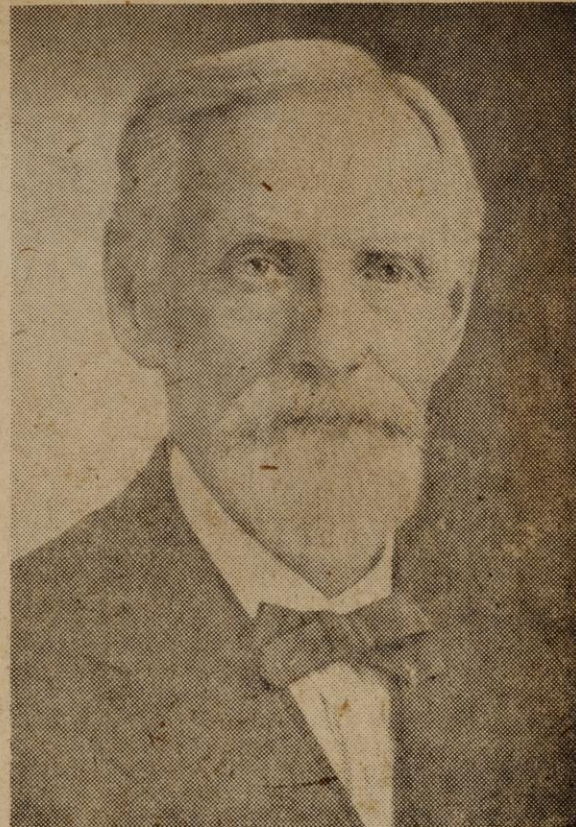
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 339

Thursday, Jan. 9, 1958



Charles A. Starkweather



Courtney Starkweather



Courtney William Killeen

PICTURES OF FOUR GENERATIONS

We regret that no pictures of Martin B. Starkweather, former resident of Columbus, can be found, but we show the pictures of four generations, Courtney Starkweather, son of Martin and father of Charles. Charles A., son of Courtney and father of Courtney, Courtney, son of Charles, shown besides his airplane in last week's issue, and Courtney William Killeen, grandson of Courtney.

BESSYE MAE STARKWEATHER

Bessye Mae Starkweather, a sister of Charles A. and daughter of Courtney was born in Beaver Dam, August 17, 1883. She never married, and lives at 406 North Spring Street, Beaver Dam.

JENNIE STARKWEATHER

As previously mentioned, Martin B. Starkweather, had a daughter, born after Martin, and his fourth wife Ursula B. Smith came to Columbus, in the late eighteen-fifties, but the nephew Charles A. has no records of his fathers or grandfathers family. However, the daughter Jennie, was several years younger than Courtney, who was born in 1845 and was perhaps ten or eleven years old when the move from New York to Wisconsin was made.

Miss Jennie's mother died in July 1875 and her daughter remained at home to keep house for her father Martin who died in 1890.

Charles recalls having heard family discussions to the effect that Martin did not approve of Jennie's plans to marry, and that she married against her father's wishes, but does not recall when this was. At any rate, she married William J. Bell and lived at De Smet, South Dakota.

She did not communicate with her half brother Courtney who lived until 1931, and there appears to have been a complete estrangement, and nothing is known about Jennie, or as to whether there are descendants or not.

We conclude this installment with a brief review of Gen'l John C. Starkweather.

GEN. JOHN C. STARKWEATHER

Perhaps the best known member of the Starkweather family in the mid-west, in the period just prior to the Civil War, and for some years following was John Converse Starkweather, son of George Anson Starkweather.

John C. and Martin Starkweather had the same ancestors Robert and John and were therefore quite distant cousins. Related because they came from the same roots, but so far as known were unacquainted, unknown to each other.

John C. was born in Cooperstown, N. Y. February 23, 1829. His mother was Elizabeth Georgiana Converse. He was educated at Union College, Schenectady, N. J., studied law with his father, and with the firm of Finch & Lynde in Milwaukee. Admitted to the bar at Milwaukee February 11, 1851—went back to New York to marry Miss Louisa A. Hallett July 17, 1851.

They returned to Milwaukee, he practiced law in Milwaukee, first by himself and then in partnership with William A. Wright, and later his father joined him in practice.

He had early become interested and active in the local militia, and in 1861 was Captain of the Milwaukee Light Guard, which volunteered as a unit and became a part of the Wisconsin First Vol. Infantry of which he became Colonel (see installment No. 325, "Story of Columbus"). He served through the war, first in command of Wis. 1st Reg. and later became a Brigadier General. He was wounded at Chickamauga.

He served in the court-marshal that tried Gen. William A. Hammond, surgeon general of the United States Army. Later he commanded several different posts in Tenn. and Alabama, and was mustered out of the Army on May 11, 1865.

After the war he moved to Oconomowoc where he had a farm. He also served as postmaster there. In 1876 he moved to Washington D. C. where he practiced law, specializing in pensions, until his death in Nov. 1890.

His children were Walter Augustus, born 1858; George Anson, 1860; Mabel Ray, April 1864; Rachel Field, 1866; Francis Morgan, 1871; Bessie Bush, 1872. The first three were born in Milwaukee, the rest in Oconomowoc. While he was not identified with Columbus, there were Columbus soldiers serving under his command, one of whom, Harvey K. Dodge became private secretary to the General.

(continued next week)

INSTALLMENT 340

Thursday, Jan. 16, 1958

Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade

The above is the title of a book compiled by Frederick Merk, Volume One of which was published in 1916 by the State Historical Society. The writer has standing permission of the Society, to quote from any of its publications, as long as credit is given.

He gratefully acknowledges this permission and will quote frequently from this volume, in a review of local conditions and agriculture, before, during and after the close of the Civil War.

AGRICULTURE—Recently, and at some length, the readers of this column have read something of the impact of the Civil War, on the state and this area. But the close of the war, was not the end of the changing conditions of this predominantly agricultural state and area.

"The 80,000 or more boys in blue, sent by Wisconsin to Southern battlefields during the Civil War, constituted but one of the armies that the state consecrated to the preservation of the Union.

At home another army toiled in the fields and workshops rendering less thrilling but not less important service to the imperiled cause of the National Government.

The men and women who made up this army of peace, stimulated by much the same spirit that moved the soldiers to the front, wrought with ever increasing productiveness to supply the food and clothing that maintained the Federal forces.

The material development of the state continued throughout the war almost as if no gigantic military struggle were going on."

A Great Wheat State

"Wisconsin was one of the group of "northwestern states" which but a decade before the Civil War had wrested from the older, eastern states, their supremacy in the production of wheat. During the war she produced for exportation, larger crops of wheat than ever before in her history. Her surplus fed the armies battling at the front and the textile and other mill operatives in New England, and entered conspicuously into the commerce of drouth stricken England and France.

During the dark days of 1862, when these countries seemed at times, about to intervene on behalf of the Confederacy, this food supply exerted an undoubted influence in the holding of them to neutrality.

The decade opened with the greatest crop in the state, up to that time. Between 27 and 29 million bushels of wheat were harvested, as against extremely short crops in 1856-8 and 9. In addition to the large crop, prices during the early months of the autumn of 1860, were higher than at any time since the panic of 1857.

But with the war clouds hanging low over the nation, the bonds of Southern states which constituted the basis of bank bills (money) of most Northern banks because they bore a high rate of interest, began to decline in value and fell sharply; the effect on the price of wheat was immediately felt.

No Wisconsin farmer, with hard wheat in his bins would exchange it if he could possibly hold off, for bank notes that might become worthless almost overnight.

The price of wheat reached 94c per bushel early in August, but by the close of navigation on the Great Lakes in December, the price had dropped to 65 cents.

Drouth-Bugs-High Prices

Drouth and chinch bugs almost ruined the crop of wheat in 1864, and prices fluctuated violently, according to the tide of War in the South. In July 1864 prices reached as high as \$2.26 per bushel in Milwaukee, payable in greatly depreciated green backs, which was about three times as much as in the same month three years before. It fluctuated up and down during the next few years, reaching in May, 1867, \$2.96 per bushel, the highest in the history of the state (up to then).

During the years 1860 to 1865, Wisconsin produced approximately one hundred million bushels, of which about two-thirds were exported.

In the same five years the state produced about the following totals. Corn, 45,000,000 bu.; Oats, 75,000,000; Rye, 4,500,000 and Barley, four million.

Columbus Important Shipping Point

From the coming of the Milwaukee, Watertown and Baraboo Valley Railroad which reached Columbus in 1857, its terminal being between the Waterloo Road and the Madison Road, south of present School Street, in Ingalsbee's pasture back of the several homes on the east side of Ludington St. or Park Avenue, there were at least six grain buying firms who had warehouses in that area, and bought and shipped large quantities of the above mentioned grains.

Wool Was Important Too

Wool was another very important crop during the period under review. All of the produce firms bought the clip of wool produced in the area, as well as hides of cattle and horses. Almost every Pioneer Farm raised sheep.

The effective blockade against the Southern states which prevented cotton from reaching market in the north and in Europe laid a heavy demand for wool, particularly for the coarser fleeces, for they were needed for the soldiers' uniforms.

Most Wisconsin wool was in that category; the price rose from around 25 cents per pound at the beginning of the war, to as high as \$1.05 per pound in the fall of 1864.

It was in September, 1864, that the Wisconsin Wool Growers' Association was organized, in Janesville.

Production of wool in Wis. in 1860 was about a million pounds and in 1865 it reached 4,000,000 pounds, a four fold increase in five years. With this greatly increased production, the price of wool fell from \$1.05 in 1865 to 29 cents in 1867.

Dairying

Dairying was another interest that was attracting attention in Southern and eastern Wisconsin counties, including our own area. Until near the close of the war dairying had been carried on in a limited way as a part of wheat and general farming. Those homesteads that had a number of cows would make butter for their own households and to sell to produce firms or in trade or exchange at general stores for the household supplies. Very little cheese was made for other than home consumption and irregular local trade.

Enterprising farmers throughout this region began to heed the often repeated suggestion of the agricultural and local papers, to substitute the cow for the plow, as lack of crop rotation, and absence of manure for fertilization, began to bring smaller and smaller yields of wheat on the exhausted fields on farms in the southern and eastern part of the state, making wheat farming less profitable.

Wisconsin's First Cheese Factory

The important American factory system of "associated" dairying that had proven so successful in the greatest of all dairying state of that period, New York, was introduced into Wisconsin in 1864 by Chester Hazen, a keen-minded immigrant farmer from New York who established Wisconsin's first cheese factory at Ladga, Fond du Lac County.

So far superior were the "factory" methods, whereby the milking of almost an entire neighborhood were pooled together, and the whole, manufactured into cheese, or butter, by an expert, to the old private home system, that by the end of the Civil War, thirty cheese factories were already in succession operation in Wisconsin, and by the end of the decade more than 100 were in business in the state.

The amount of cheese which the factories and a few private dairies produced in Wisconsin increased from an estimated 1,104,300 pounds in 1860 to approximately 6,000,000 pounds in 1871, and to almost ten million pounds in 1873.

A Columbia County Atlas of 1873 lists dozens of farmers as also stock breeders but in the Town of Columbus only two, T. Clark Smith in section 23 and W. W. Drake in section 26 were listed as farmers, stock raisers and dairymen. No names in any other township show up as dairymen.

The production of butter by factory or creameries in Wisconsin was much slower. Wisconsin dairymen, from the beginning, specialized in cheese, leaving butter chiefly to the private home dairies, which collectively, according to published figures, produced 13,611,328 pounds in 1860 and 22,473,036 pounds in 1870.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Jan. 23, 1958
INSTALLMENT 341



Our First Creamery

The first creamery established in Columbus, so far as known was by John Hasey Jr. who came to the Columbus area (Danville) in 1845 and died in 1914 at the age of 97. This creamery was built at what is now the corner of School and Hibbard Sts. but we have never been able to establish the year.

Wisconsin was well adapted to dairying by reason of her favorable climate, excellent pasture and abundant pure water from springs, streams and wells. From New York had come many of the early settlers, many well educated descendants of English dairymen, who introduced into the area bordering Lake Michigan, the Fox River Valley, the settlements on the Rock and Crawford rivers, the art of making English Cheddar cheese.

Swiss Cheese

From Switzerland, famous for its cheeses, early came colonies of Swiss to locate in Green and surrounding counties, to produce Swiss and Limburg cheese.

In 1870 Green County produced 358,830 pounds, in private dairies for by tradition, habit and pride of the foreign cheese makers were individualistic. It was not until 1870 that one group established the first factory for producing cheese by factory method in Green County.

First Dairy Association

In March 1867 a convention of Illinois and Wisconsin dairymen was called in Fond du Lac, to organize the Illinois and Wisconsin Dairymen's Association. In 1869 it developed into the Northwestern Dairymen's Association.

Two years later, on February 15, 1872 the Wisconsin Dairymen's Association was organized at Watertown.

The quality of dairy products in the early days of "factories" left much to be desired, when the cheese and butter began going into eastern markets. Wisconsin dairymen, were obliged, in the beginning, to submit to the humiliation of concealing the identity of their cheeses, and their butter was contemptuously quoted on eastern exchanges as "Western Grease."

The Cheese Law

To help remedy the charges of low grades, poor quality, etc. made by dealer and consumers in the east, in 1866 the Wisconsin Legislature enacted the first dairy law passed in Wisconsin "An act to prevent fraud in the manufacture of cheese."

Fortunately for the state, a number of earnest and public-spirited leaders were ready to devote their time and energies to the improvement in the quality of dairy products, through an educational program through associations.

W. D. Hoard

One of them was W. D. Hoard, at one time a citizen of Columbus, who was destined to become the great dairy editor, when he left Colum-

bus to establish at Lake Mills, the Jefferson County Union in 1870, a weekly paper devoted to the improvement of Wisconsin dairying. Fifteen years later he founded Hoard's Dairyman. It was he who coined the phrase, "The cow is the foster mother of the human race. From the day of the ancient Hindu to this time have the thoughts of men turned to this kindly and beneficent creature as one of the chief sustaining forces of human life."

Other Leaders

Others were Stephen Favelle of Lake Mills, an early president of Northwestern Dairymen's Association; Chester Hazen of Ladoga, the first president of Wisconsin Dairymen's Association and one of the greatest cheese makers in the northwest; Hiram Smith, A. D. DeLand, Charles R. Beach, Robert Houston and others no less worthy, led the way in the effort for Wisconsin to produce dairy products second to none.

Careless and ignorant methods gave way to the scientific procedure and expert skill in the factories.

America's Dairyland

From this humble start has grown the state's leading agricultural pursuit to the high plateau long known as America's Dairyland.

Before the end of the seventies Wisconsin was carrying away at eastern dairy exhibitions coveted prizes which had hitherto almost invariably went to New York and Ohio.

Sugar Cane and Flax

A number of experiments were tried in Wisconsin, and other states, to find some way to grow a substitute for sugar and cotton, both of which were shut off to a high degree because of the war.

Sugar cane of two varieties, Chinese imphee and African sorghum, had been introduced into the state by the State Agricultural Society as early as 1857, one of the first states in the Union to experiment with sorghum. However its culture had not been very satisfactory, and at the beginning of the Civil War only a few hundred Wisconsin farmers were raising it, and then only sufficient to supply their own table with molasses. (In some areas of the U. S. sorghum molasses was called "long sweetening" as distinguished from soft light brown sugar which was called "short sweetening.")

Gov. Alex Randall

In Jan., 1861, in his message published in practically all Wisconsin's papers, Gov. Alexander Randall said, among other things. "In view of the probable difficulties which may embroil the states of the Union to establish special premiums for the further encouragement of the growth of sugar cane."

"The unusual high prices to which real sugar rose following the opening of hostilities, soon furnished stimulus to stir the farmers of southern and eastern Wisconsin to action."

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Jan. 30, 1958

INSTALLMENT 342



Sorghum Conventions

In 1863 and for a number of years thereafter state sorghum conventions annually assembled in Madison, the center of sorghum culture in Wisconsin. A newspaper called the Northwest Sorgho Journal was established in Madison in 1856.

In the census year of 1860, only 19,854 gallons of sorghum was reported as grown in this state. In 1863 according to an estimate of the Secy of the association O. S. Willey the production had risen to 600,000; and in 1866 when the sorghum fever had reached its height nearly a million gallons were reported.

In spite of this apparent success, it was impossible to deny that summer in Wisconsin was too short to fully ripen the cane. In favorable seasons it matured enough to make excellent molasses, but never matured enough to make sugar.

Both during and after the war the state Agricultural Society persistently continued to offer a handsome premium for ten pounds of sorghum sugar made within the state, but no prize was ever won.

When sugar again became available after the war, at reasonable prices, the attempts to raise sorghum in Wisconsin practically ceased, although in the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, sorghum growing continued to flourish.

Sugar Beets

While we have no data as to whether experiments with sugar beets were ever made hereabouts in the Civil War decade, and the chances are there were none, it is interesting to note that as early as 1863 some experiments were undertaken in Oconto County but it was not until 1868 that some encouragement came at Fond du Lac.

In the spring of 1868 two German immigrants one of whom had been employed for several years and had become superintendent of a German beet sugar refinery in the Fatherland, rented a tract of land near Fond du Lac and planted it to sugar beets. During the summer they built a primitive but complete sugar refinery. By 1869 they were manufacturing sugar at the rate of a thousand pounds per day, a feat that enabled the Milwaukee Sentinel to boast, early in 1870, that Wisconsin was producing more beet sugar than all the other states of the Union combined.

This apparent success and the attendant publicity interested other people at other places, and in the years 1869 to 1871 approximately a dozen other small sugar beet factories were built in the southern and eastern counties of the state.

Sauk County Sugar

The most successful, and the one nearest to Columbus was in Sauk County, and presumably at Sauk City but the record available to the writer says only, 'The most successful of these, the First Sauk County Farmers Association for the Fabrication of Beet Sugar, an interesting company of some fifty German farmers, which had secured the services of a German expert, manufactured in 1871 as much as 134,400 pounds of beet sugar and 72,350 pounds (not gallons) of molasses.

In spite of every effort, however, it was impossible to compete, price wise, with the cheaper and better product from the south, so after a year or two of discouragement, all of these dozen or so companies disappeared.

Yet they served a useful purpose, for it had been demonstrated that the soils and climate of Wisconsin were well adapted to the growth of beets.

About the turn of the century, others came into the field and made a second attempt in which success was achieved, but even today there are some ghost sugar beet factories in Wisconsin, that dropped by the wayside. Only one beet sugar factory is still in operation, at Green Bay.

Flax

The shutting off of cotton fibre from the south, during the war stimulated not only wool growing, as we have stated previously, but flax as well.

Flax had been a crop of all pioneer sections of the north, but with the hard work connected with handling the flax which was largely a family job, succeeding generations had swung

to cotton goods, and the growing of flax had declined in all sections of the North including Wisconsin.

The greatest deterrent was not the growing, but the lack of factory machinery to process the fiber. Large premiums were offered in older sections in the east, for discovery of methods whereby flax fibre could be easily spun on cotton machinery standing idle in New England because of northern blockades against southern ports.

Gov. Randall, who confidently believed that efforts to "cottonize flax" would be successful, and urged the state legislature in 1861 to encourage cultivation of flax by offering special rewards or premiums, a sort of subsidy.

In 1863 farmers of Wisconsin responded and a number of manufacturing companies distributed free seed and contracted to buy the resulting crop. Two of these companies were the New York and DePere Flax Company, and the Northwestern Flax Company of Chicago, and there were probably others.

Enough flax was contracted to justify the erection of several linen factories and linseed oil mills.

However, very little success was encountered in the attempt to cottonize flax, and the expense of manufacturing linen remained prohibitive, when southern cotton again appeared on the market flax culture suffered a decline.

The Hop Craze

Perhaps the most interesting crop in the agricultural history of the Civil War period, and the reconstruction that followed is the so called Hop Craze which swept over portions of the state during the years beginning in 1864.

It seems that many of the early pioneer farmers grew hops for local use at least and some commercially, for hops were an important item in the brewing of beer.

Like tobacco, the growing of hops in Wisconsin met with little favor in a commercial sense.

In 1860 the production of hops in Wisconsin was only 135,587 pounds. As the war progresses a slight improvement in hop culture followed, as a discriminatory tax on whiskey and the development of a new taste for lager beer stimulated the numerous breweries of Wisconsin to increase largely their output.

As a result the relatively few hop growers in this state found a profitable market for their crop at their very door yards. The development of the industry under these favorable conditions was not surprising.

Great Excitement

Toward the close of the war a new factor entered which caused great excitement and farmers who had never before been interested in hops, to plunge into hopculture in spite of the fact that a great deal more hand work was involved. Hops grow on climbing vines, so it was necessary for each acre planted to have over a thousand hop poles implanted solidly to support the heavy vines, and when harvest time came these poles had to be dug up and laid horizontally, as the pole in an upright position were 12 to 15 feet high and pickers could not reach any where near that height.

The Hop Louse

In New York and other eastern hop growing centers a "louse", (possibly an aphid) a traditional enemy of the vine swept over the fields, and for a succession of years the eastern crops were virtually ruined, and the market value of hops, went skyward.

Prices Climb Too

In the 1861 season Wisconsin's best grades were worth from fifteen to twenty five cents per pound on the New York market, in 1865 they had reached a price of 50 to 65 cents and in 1867 to as high as seventy cents. In 1865 numbers of growers in Sauk County were said to have realized from their hop crop from \$800.00 to \$1200.00 per acre and one grower was reported to have sold his crop from a fraction less than one acre for \$1600. This latter figure having been reported in the Dodge County Citizen of November 16, 1865.

The Wisconsin State Journal of December 6, 1867 contained an account of one farmer who reported raising on a single acre 3,100 pounds of hops which he sold at 58½ cents per pound.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Feb. 6, 1958
INSTALLMENT 343



The Secy of the State Agriculture Society reported in 1868 that "Cases are numerous in which the first crop had paid for the land and all improvements, leaving subsequent crops a clear profit, minus the cost of cultivating and harvesting.

The Milwaukee Sentinel November 13, 1867 estimated that of two million dollars paid to the hop growers of Sauk County during that year, \$1,500,000 was clear profit.

Whether or not such accounts were true, and they were no doubt greatly exaggerated, their effect was the same, in results.

Hop growing developed into a vertible craze. Gathering renewed force with every new acre planted in Sauk County, where it is generally considered to have originated, and where the crop of 1865 was over half a million pounds, it spread from neighborhood to neighborhood, and from county to county, until by 1867 it had hopped to practically all of the southern and eastern counties of the state. So revolutionary had been the change in some sections that one in passing through them found some difficulty in convincing himself that he was not really in old Kent in England.

In 1867 the state produced between six and seven million pounds valued at \$4,200,000, and by the next year to nearly eleven million.

Sauk County alone had 2548 acres planted to hops in 1867 from which production was approximately four million pounds, or one fifth of all the hops grown that year in the entire country. (Milwaukee Sentinel, November 13, 1867). And the next year the acreage was doubled.

Kilbourn (now Wisconsin Dells) in the western edge of Columbia County just east of the Sauk County line, was the chief shipping center of the Wisconsin hop growing district, according to the Wisconsin Mirror of June 17, 1868, "ranked as the greatest primary hop depot in the United States—perhaps the world."

Come To The Harvest

Harvest time was several weeks of picturesque animation. From far and near, from the country and the cities came girls and women of every class and condition, in response to the call for pickers, streamed into the hop fields.

The Wisconsin State Register of August 29, 1868 said, "The railroad companies are utterly unable to furnish cars for the accomodation of the countless throngs who daily come to the depots to take the train to the hop fields. Every passenger car is pressed into service, and freight and flatcars are fixed up as well as possible for the transportation of pickers.

The Wisconsin Mirror of September 2, 1868, estimated that 30,000 girls were at work picking hops in the region tributary to Kilbourn, of whom 20,000 had been brought in from outside.

Mrs. Fred Proctor said recently that her mother frequently mentioned having earned money, while a girl living in Kilbourn at the time, by picking hops in the Kilbourn area.

The girls, in addition to receiving their board and room, were ordinarily paid at the rate of 50 cents per ten-pound box, a rate which permitted industrious workers to earn readily from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a day.

Nor were the wages the only attraction. The picking season was a time of feasting and merrymaking. Each night when darkness put an end to labor the well used fiddle was fetched from its case and to its merry strains, under the mellow autumn moon, the unwearied tripped the jovial steps of the Hop Dance.

Huge Profits

"The huge profits realized by hop growers were sometimes as royally spent. If one may credit the tales still told in Sauk and adjoining counties, farmers daughters rustled in silks and satin, purchased pianos, and visited foreign countries, while sons exchanged overalls for broadcloth and sported blooded horses and fancy phaetons.

Hop growers, who at first proceeded cautiously, soon threw discretion to the winds and not only their profits, but as much more as they could raise on credit into the purchase of more acres and the poleing of more yards.

No words of warning or advice could at such time gain a hearing. Even the far sighted, who realized that a crash must inevitably come, took a gamblers chance of winning before the luck changed.

The Dream Ends

The change came sooner and more disastrously than even the worst fears anticipated.

In 1868, owing to an unfavorable growing season and the inroads of the "recently arrived louse," the average yield of Wisconsin hop yards sank from 1400 pounds to 800 to 900 pounds per acre, and the quality of much of the crop was inferior.

To make things worse, no sooner had the new crop of hops began to move than it became evident that the bottom had dropped out of the market.

The eastern growers, having successfully banished the troublesome louse, had again produced a normal crop.

The necessity for the Wisconsin production had dissappeared at just the time when in spite of a poor yield, the greatly increased acreage yielded almost 11,000,000 pounds. The blackest predictions were fulfilled. The New York market was hopelessly glutted.

The growers who sold their crops early received from 25 to 35 cents per pound, and bitterly protested at the time that they were being robbed, but they were indeed fortunate, for as the season advanced the prices sank lower and lower until there came a time when hops became practically unsaleable.

The average price received for the Wisconsin crop probably did not exceed ten cents per pound or about one half of what it cost to grow and handle the crop.

In a report late in 1868 the Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce issued a report which they said, "It was usually estimated that the cost of raising, picking and curing hops in the West amounted to 18 to 20 cents per pound."

A large part of the crop was held over, unsold, until the next year in the hope that the situation might improve, but ultimately it had to be sold at from three to five cents per pound.

Some growers courageously attempted in 1869 to retrieve their lost fortunes, and a fair yield was grown but prices continued to range from 10 to 20 cents and the net result of the effort was only to increase the general distress.

The depression in the hop market continued until 1871, when owing to a failure in the eastern crop, prices again became normal, but a large proportion of Wisconsin growers had in the meantime plowed up their hop fields, and having been hurt so badly during the craze, not many came back to hop growing in a large way. After 1871 the industry became comparatively steady, at least up to the latter part of the century.

We have drawn liberally upon the book mentioned at the beginning of this article. Vol. 1 Economic History of Wisconsin by Frederick Merk, published by Wisconsin Historical Society, for whose standing permission to quote any of their publications, we are thankful.

Hops in Columbia County

We have shown the state-wide picture of the Hop Craze, to which we now add a few details as to Columbia County and the Columbus area and their part in the hop culture.

In a Columbia County Atlas published in 1873, a few years after the craze was at its height, and after the crop had become stabilized to a marked degree, we find there were quite a few hop growers, large enough to have on their farms, hop houses, as the buildings in which the hop blossoms "cured" were called.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 344

Thursday, Feb. 13



In the town of Columbus, W. W. Drake in Section 26 and W. Thomson in Section 29 are listed.

The Drake farm is now the farm of Harvey Thiede, and the Thomson 40 is now partly in the farm of Arch Sanderson and part of Elmer Bauer's. The Drake farm shows a Hop house, so marked in the Atlas of 1873.

In the town of Fountain Prairie, on the land where the Fall River school grounds are, F. Bradley owned $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres and he is listed as Hop Grower.

In the town of Caledonia, on Section 22, E. E. Jones is listed as Farmer and Hop Grower.

In the town of Lewiston, E. J. Lewis is listed as Postmaster, Farmer and Hop Grower on Section 21. He was also Sheriff of Columbia County in 1857-8. Also J. G. Hay, Farmer, Stock and Hop Grower in Section 26; also J. F. Merrill, Section 4, Farmer and Hop Grower.

In the town of Randolph, Section 29-30, John H. Houston is listed as Farmer and Hop Grower.

Obviously there were many more growers who did not care to pay the cost of an atlas, in order to be listed, and also Columbia County must have had many growers of hops at an earlier period, because the U. S. Census report in a Madison reference library shows that in 1869, the year following the collapse of the hop market, the production in Columbia County is shown as 230,762 pounds.

In our general reading of local papers, we have seen references that cause us to believe that among local farmers and farm owners, the following grew hops at one period or another. Capt. Ira Ford, Capt. O. A. Southmayd, W. D. Hoard who lived here a few years, Wm. L. Lewis, a brother of Gov. James T. Lewis.

Here are a few items of interest found in the Columbus Democrat of the dates given, pertaining to Hops.

September 10, 1868 — It is estimated that five hundred women and girls have gone from this vicinity for the purpose of picking hops. Most hop-raisers are now in the midst of their picking and drying operations, and it is reported generally that the yield is not as large as last year.

December 10, 1862 — By private advice received from New York City this week, we learn that there are more Wisconsin hops in that market than from anywhere else, the amount being 20,000 bales.

It is difficult to obtain for them even six cents per pound and the correspondent thinks it much the better course not to ship, but to hold until next summer when he expects a better prospect.

New York men claim that the Wisconsin hops are not as good as they were last year, not being strong.

January 14, 1869 — In a full column review of business done through the local office of the Railroad during 1868, we find this item pertaining to hops. During the month of August there were sold to hop-pickers that left this station, excursion tickets to the amount of \$798.10 and in September to the amount of \$99.55 making 485 hop-pickers that left this station. (Presumably to Kilbourn the center of the hop growing area.)

Perhaps we should again remind our readers that newspapers from late 1863 to the fall of 1868 are completely missing. No doubt, if they were available a satisfactory account of the hop craze, as it was in our locality, could have been written.

The Changing Value of the Dollar

We have all read, heard or experienced the well known statements that a dollar doesn't go as far as it used to; or fifty cent dollars, or simi-

lar references to this well known bit of conversation.

A little piece of work by the Research Council of American Bankers' Association, getting the information from a Bureau of Labor Statistics Indexes appeared in the November 1957 issue of "Banking," the Journal of the A.B.A.

The figures go back 156 years, beginning in 1800, and from a study of a table of details and several graphic charts in the magazine we find some interesting things.

For example in 1800 the dollar was worth 80 cents in purchasing power. Twenty years later a dollar bought 91 cents in goods, in the intervening years its purchasing power was below 80 several times, the lowest being 53 cents in 1814, at the close of the War of 1812 and the highest in the twenty years was 91 cents in 1819.

Then came a period of sixteen years when it was above a dollar running from the lowest 1.06 in 1820 to a high of 1.24 which it reached in 1830 and 1834.

In 1836 it slipped to .97 cents; 1837, 98 cents; 1838 it was 1.03 cents but slipped back to .97 cents in 1839, the year Mayor Elbert Dickson built his cabin on the bank of the Crawfish, the first white man to settle in what is now Columbus.

The following 23 years our dollars were worth 1.14 cents as a minimum to a high of 1.35 in 1849 and it was worth 1.30 cents or more eleven times.

In 1861 the year both of our Columbus banks began business, paying, or at least advertising to pay 12% on special deposits and charging, it is said, as high as 30% for the money loaned out, and discounted at that. Which means that when a pioneer ancestor of many still living, borrowed \$100.00 it was "discounted" \$30.00 one year's interest taken out in advance; the borrower got only \$70.00, but was obligated to pay \$100.00 when his note fell due one year later.

In the middle of the Civil War, 1863, the dollar dropped to .90c in purchasing power; 1864, .70 cents; 1865, .62 cents, which was the low point in a stretch of eleven years, slowly rising into the nineties and going to 1.01 in 1874.

Then followed a long period of 42 years of the dollar being strongly above parity, the high point being the years following the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.

From 1885 it was not less than 1.40 for seventeen years, the highest point being 1.75 for two years 1896 and 1897.

1915 was the last of the 42 years when the dollar was above par, 1.17 being its value that year.

From 1916 the dollar was below par in purchasing power for fifteen years, being under .60 cents only once, and under 80 only five times before 1931 when it was 1.12 remaining above par nine of the following ten years, dropping to .94 cents in 1937.

Since 1941, when it was .93 cents the decline has been gradual, slowly moving downwards to only .46 cents in 1956, the lowest in purchasing power recorded.

A graphic chart, ignoring smaller peaks and valleys shows the causes of decline in purchasing power, to be war and panics. The War of 1812, panic 1837, Civil War, World War I, World War II and Korea.

But through all these years, a dollar has been a dollar in financial affairs. It is only when one is purchasing food, apparel, shelter, or the ten-thousand and one items we encounter in our complex way of life, the highest standard of living the World has ever seen, that the dollar diminishes in purchasing power.

This does not require explaining to those who are living, or trying to, on incomes from investments, annuities, pensions, etc. They know from sad experience that the dollar is not what it used to be, when it comes to buying or paying bills.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 345

Thursday, Feb. 20



The Loomis Families

Among the very early settlers who came to that part of Wisconsin Territory, that later became Columbia County, was Warren Loomis, a carpenter, builder and house mover who was born in Broome County, New York, of which Binghamton is the County Seat, May 2, 1799, and came here with his family in 1845.

The Loomis family, in America, goes back to one Joseph Loomis, who came from Braintree, in England and settled at Windsor, Conn., in 1639.

Joseph was the only son of John Loomis, who as far as we know never left England.

Loomis Genealogy Published

A publication of the Genealogy of the Loomis family, compiled by Dr. Elias Loomis in 1875 contains more than 28,000 names of persons whose families were descendants of Joseph Loomis.

The original land in the Colony, at Windsor was a grant from the English government and up to the time of publication of the genealogy, at least, the land was still owned by a Loomis, and in the time from 1639 on, had never been owned by anyone not bearing the name of Loomis.

And on a portion of the original grant of land, the Loomis Institute, a college, was located, having been granted a charter by the state of Connecticut, "there perpetually to remain."

From the same publication, from which we have seen extracts, we learn that up to about 75 years ago over 900 men, by name of Loomis have served in the armed forces of our country.

The stone which marks the first English settlement in Conn., is located on Loomis land.

Mov'nig Ahead

Skipping several generations from Joseph, we come to Abijah, who was listed in the 1830 census of Union Township, Broome County, New York, as head of a family which shows four sons and three daughters. One of the sons was named Josiah, born at Windsor, Conn., March 11, 1708 or 9. He was married April 26, 1732, to Abigail Bacon, of Middletown, Conn., and removed to Simsbury, Conn., and thence to Egremont, Mass. He was a member of the Great Barrington, Mass Church as of 1770.

Another Abijah

Josiah, too, probably had a large family, one of whom was named Abijah, who was born March 10, 1743 or 4, and eventually married Mary Kellogg who died in Green County, N. Y., which is in the Catskill Mountain area.

From information supplied by Mrs. Melbourne F. Smith of Grand Rapids, Michigan, we have taken the above. Also from the same source, we learn that the last mentioned Abijah had nine children, as follows: Warren, Rachel, Tryphena, Mary, Josiah, Alfred, Daniel, Anne and Anson. This memo gives name of his wife as Margaret Rowe, from this we infer that Abijah was married twice.

The life expectancy of women two hundred and less, years ago was short, compared with our day and age, and in our research in hundreds of families, the pattern is pretty much the same, indicating that men were married two, three or sometimes more times.

So we will make no effort to find the dividing line between the children of Mary and Margaret.

Warren Loomis

In the case of Warren Loomis, mentioned in our opening paragraph, we know that he was married at least twice, but we do not know the name of his first wife. However from his obituary in the Columbus Democrat of December 5, 1874 we learn he was the father of 13 children but their names were not given.

Warren Loomis was born in Broome County, New York, May 2, 1799 and grew up to be a carpenter, builder and house mover. As previously stated we do not know the time of his first marriage, nor the name of his wife, but presume the place to have been the Town of Union, Broome County, New York.

Warren had 13 Children

We have traced the names of his thirteen children, and the approximate year of their births; some from census records of 1870, but only the names and state of birth of those "still in their parents home", and part of the household are given. We find some discrepancies where two apparently were born in the same year, possibly in January and December of the same year.

From his first wife whom ever she may have been, we name the following and the year of birth as we deduce from the information from various sources, other than obituaries of three.

Milford 1829, Nathaniel 1830, Harvey 1834, Martney September 14, 1842, Harrison 1843.

Sarah Berkley

His second wife was Sarah Berkley, born near Albany, New York in 1813, but date of marriage not known.

However Sarah was his wife and mother of at least one child, a son, Washington when her husband moved west to Columbus in 1845, bringing with them at least five sons, Milford about 16, Nathaniel 15, Harvey 11 or 12, Harrison 2 and a daughter Martney 3, and Washington less than a year old.

They journeyed west by Erie Canal, The Great Lakes and team and wagon.

What prompted them to come to this particular area is not definitely known but there were probably several reasons to go west, primarily cheap government land.

Halt at Columbus

From page 739 Vol 2, Jones History of Columbia County published in 1914 we quote "finally making halt in Columbia County, Wisconsin at the village of Columbus, on the site of which stood only three buildings." (The statement is incorrect as to the number of buildings, although there may have been only three with clap-board siding, there were numerous log structures.)

Other Early Settlers

From page 666, Butterfields History of Columbia County published 1880, which we have found much more reliable than Jones, we quote, "From 1841 to 1846, the arrival of strangers who became permanent settlers was of almost daily occurrence. In 1841 Jacob Dickason, brother of the Major (our first settler, 1831 settled near the latters cabin. In 1842 came Noah Dickason, James Shackley, S. W. S. John, and Mr. Baldwin. In 1843 arrived H. W. McCaffery, H. A. Whitney, Jermiah and William Drake who settled just outside the village limits.

Within a few miles were located T. C. Smith, W. Stewart, B. Campbell and W. Wade. The year 1844 brought to the village Jacob Smith, the Stroud family, H. W. Hamilton, John Swarthout, H. Cady, A. Lashier, Mr. Edwards, and perhaps a few others.

In 1845, there came to this frontier, for it still was so, J. T. Lewis, first lawyer; Dr. J. C. Axtell, first doctor; Daniel E. Bassett, first store, J. E. Arnold, Bassett's partner; Warren Loomis, W. C. Spencer, Jesse Rowell, E. Thayer, W. M. Clark and some others who settled in the village."

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 345

Thursday, Feb. 27



Abode Not Known

It is not known what house then or later became the home of Warren Loomis and his family. His obituary was brief and we quote it verbatim from the Columbus Democrat of Dec. 5, 1874: "Mr. Warren Loomis died at his residence in this city on Saturday morning last, after a lingering and painful illness. He was born in Broom County, N. Y. May 2, 1799 and moved to Columbus in 1845.

He was a pioneer here, and when he came, wigwams were much more abundant on this ground than were the abodes of the white men.

Indeed, at this time there were only three frame houses in the settlement. (However there were numerous log cabins.)

The deceased built the first frame house between here and Beaver Dam, for the father of William W. Williams (a prominent citizen in the area then called the Welsh settlement.)

The deceased was the father of thirteen children, among whom were Milford and Harvey of this city and Washington of Fall River. His daughter Lucinda, a girl of about 18, died in 1866, and her death was a blow from which his spirits never recovered.

His disease was a complication of heart disease and kidney complaint, but his death is attributed to the former. The funeral occurred Sunday afternoon, the services were conducted by Rev. W. A. Henderson, of the M. E. Church."

The name of his wife and many children seems to have been overlooked by whoever wrote the obituary, and of course it is possible if not probable, that most if not all of the children were in homes of their own, away from Columbus.

Mrs. Sarah Berkley Loomis, according to the records in the Bureau of Vital Statistics at Madison, died November 4, 1883, (about nine years later than her husband) and that she died in Fall River, but was buried on the family lot at Hillside Cemetery, Columbus.

Writer has searched the newspaper files and the copy of November 9, in which there probably was an obituary, was missing.

Sarah's Children

The names of the children born to Sarah Berkley Loomis, and year or approximate year of birth picked up from various sources are as follows: Washington, 1845; Lorindia, August 20, 1847; Sarah, 1848; Lucinda, 1848 or 9; Charles, 1850; Eugene, 1852; Timothy, 1853; James, 1854.

Of the thirteen children of Warren Loomis we have some data on Milford and Harvey, a very little about James, and a great deal about Washington, which will follow later in this narrative.

The family lot is in the oldest part of Hillside Cemetery, and seems to have five graves. The monument, a small obelisk, contains names and data as follows: Marthey B., September 14, 1842; D. October 14, 1847; Lorinda, B. August 20, 1847, D. May 4, 1866; Warren B. May 2, 1799; D. November 28, 1874; Charles, D. April 7, 1880, age 30. Our assumption is that the mother, who spent her last years in the home of her son Washington, and who was buried in Columbus, occupies the fifth grave, but her name and dates of birth and death has never been carved on the monument.

Other Loomis Families

And also, much to our surprise and satisfaction, we have found some information concerning two or three younger brothers of Warren Loomis, and some of their descendants, from records in possession of Miss Lora Loomis, of rural Fall River, whose father, Judson Loomis, was a nephew of Warren, and therefore cousins of his thirteen children.

Earlier in this narrative we mentioned that Abijah Loomis had 9 children whose names were mentioned, of whom Warren was the oldest. Number five on the list was Josiah, number six was Alfred and number seven was Daniel.

Joshia Loomis

Joshia was married three times; his first

wife being Almira Livermore who became the mother of four children, Elnora, Judson, Thomas and Elvira, but perhaps not in the order of the names given above.

His second wife was a Miss St. John, by whom he had no children, and his third was Lucretia Peters, by whom he had four children, Almond, Maryette, John and Matilda.

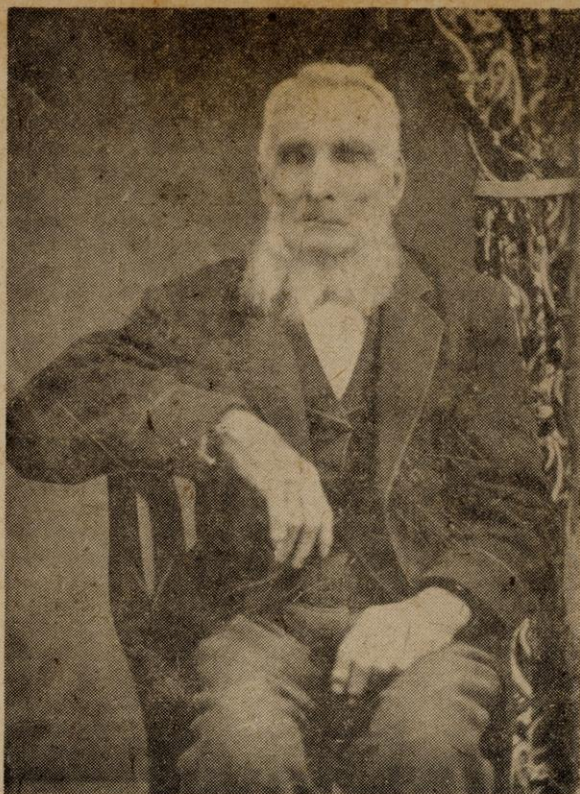
His first and second wives were New York state women. He married Miss Peters after he came to Wisconsin. Joshia, Alfred and Daniel were all farmers, and settled in Fountain Prairie west of present highway 146, and possibly one or more in Otsego.

It is possible, but this is only a thought, that all four of the Loomis brothers came at the same time or nearly the same time, as the year 1845 shows up in the obituaries of some of them.

Josiah, was one of the organizers, and was president of a Cemetery in Fountain Prairie, the one on Section 8, on highway 146.

Also at some time possibly later, some years after his first settling Josiah operated the hotel or inn whatever it may have been called at Otsego. He moved to Mankato, Minnesota, about 1863 or 4 and died there.

Judson Loomis



Joshiah's oldest son, Judson was born in Broom County, N.Y. August 7, 1838, and was about seven years of age when the family came west. He grew up on the farm, attended district school, and in 1864, when he was twenty six, he was married to Miss Harriet Hoton daughter of a neighbor. Harriet was a cousin of Jesse Hoton, this city. That same year they went to Mankato, Minnesota to which place Josiah and the younger members of his family had moved.

However the young bride was homesick, being so far away from her own family and in 1866 Judson and his wife came back to the vicinity of Fall River and resumed farming. He never owned a farm, but was a renter, a good farmer and a good family man.

The couple became parents of five children, Nancy, George, Sarah, Jennie and Lora. Mrs. Hattie Loomis, died February 3, 1896; her husband died March 30, 1915 at the home of his daughter Mrs. Fayette (F.C.) Thomas in Fall River, leaving his four daughters Mrs. Nancy Thomas, who had no children; Mrs. Sarah Dunning, who had 2 daughters and six sons; Mrs. Jennie Waterworth, who had one daughter and two sons, and his youngest, unmarried daughter Miss Lora; also he had one son George.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 346
Thursday, March 6



The picture in last week's installment was of Josiah Loomis and not of Judson as it was printed.

We show here a picture of a group which includes the faithful family horse, "Old Bill." From left to right, Josiah's sons Thomas and Judson Loomis, "Old Bill," George Loomis, son of Judson, and F. C. Thomas, son in law of Judson Loomis, husband of Nancy Loomis. Group picture was a snap shot taken in 1908.

Miss Lora Loomis

Miss Lora, unmarried, is the youngest child of Judson and Harriet, or Hattie Hoton Loomis, makes her home with her brother in law Thomas Waterworth, widower of Jennie Loomis, and his sons, on a farm a mile or two north of Fall River. Besides her household activities, she is active in church and club, and other social occasions.

She has been very helpful in supplying information about her branch of the Loomis family tree, for which the writer is thankful.



Her picture shown here is from a group picture shown in Columbus Journal-Republican August 22, 1957.

Josiah's Son Thomas

As previously mentioned Josiah Loomis had four children by his first wife, Almira Livermore, they being Elnora, Judson, Thomas and Elvira. Just by chance, while searching for material on another family story, in the Columbus Journal of 1859, we found in the issue of November 24, the following marriage notice

"Married at Columbus, on the 20th by E. E. Chapin, Esq. Mr. Thomas Loomis and Miss Hulda James, both of Otsego, Wis." It is not very much, but it does confirm the scanty information we have on those Loomis families who settled a little further west than Columbus and Fall River. His picture shows in the group above.

Alfred Loomis

The only information we have about the above was found in an undated obituary clipped from a Columbus newspaper, in the possession of Miss Lora Loomis, from which we quote portions.

The clipping is headed "Death of Mrs. Alfred Loomis." Mrs. Nancy Loomis, widow of the late Alfred Loomis, died at her home in Beaver Dam on January 26, aged 91 years.

Her husband was an uncle of Messrs. Harvey and Milford Loomis, of this city, who with their families attended the funeral on Sunday last.

The Beaver Dam Argus published the following notice. "Nancy Howard was born April 13, 1813 in Union, Broome County, N. Y., which place continued to be her residence for thirty three years.

In 1832 she was married to Mr. Alfred Loomis, and in 1845 with her husband she came west, settling on a farm near Columbus, where they lived for a short time, and then came to Beaver Dam. Here she has lived ever since, burying her husband and all five children, save one, Mrs. Evans, of this city.

In 1849 she united with the First Presbyterian Church of which she was always a worthy and consistent member.

From the above we conclude that having been born in 1813 and being 91 years of age at the time of death, the year of death must have been 1904.

Daniel

We have no data about Daniel other than that he came to Columbia County, lived in the Fountain Prairie area. Nothing about whether he was married or single.

Milford Loomis

Milford, the oldest son of Warren Loomis, was born in the town of Union, Broome County, N. Y. May 5, 1829 and received his schooling in the nearby school.

He was a little over 16 years of age when he came with his father's family to this frontier settlement, presumably in the summer or fall of 1845.

He had already been his father's helper in the carpenter work, and that of house-moving, and by the time he became of legal age, he was a skilled worker in wood, and became one of the very best builders in Columbus and surrounding area. Milford Loomis was not only recognized as a builder of houses and barns, but was not afraid of more difficult structures, wooden tressel work bridges. In scanning the Columbus Democrat of 1868, in search of data on another sketch, we ran across the following item in the issue of October 15.

"Mr. Milford Loomis, of this village, has just completed the new bridge at Danville. It cost \$1,700 and is 104 ft. long by 16 ft. wide. It has a pier in the center, of solid stone, and is pronounced a very fine substantial structure.

"Mr. Loomis is now engaged in building a bridge in the village of Lowell."

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 347
Thursday, March 13



On December 1, 1853 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Strange, presumably of Columbus, and set up their home here where he followed his trade for a long period of years.

The house at the N.E. corner of James and Birdsey Sts. was for many years the home of Milford Loomis and his family. Not having had an opportunity of examining the abstract, the writer cannot say just when Milford acquired the property, but his assumption is that Mr. Loomis bought a vacant lot and built the house himself prior to his marriage, and that here all of his children were born, and that here his wife passed away, and upon his own death, the only member of the family left here was his unmarried daughter Miss Maud Loomis.

Mr. and Mrs. Milford Loomis became parents of three daughters and one son, Mrs. George Baine of Lexington, Ky.; Mrs. F. F. LaRowe of Sioux City, Iowa; Mr. Wm. E. Loomis, also of Sioux City and Miss Maud at home, as of June 25, 1908.

An item in the Columbus Democrat of May 22, 1885, reads, "Will E. Loomis and Miss Ida Cone of Fort Collins, Colo. are to be united in marriage on the 9th of June and will arrive in this city soon after, when a family reunion takes place. Mrs. Geo., A. Bain, of Bismark, S.D. (nee "Coosie" Loomis) is expected here in a few days for a long visit."

The Democrat of June 19, 1885 said "Will Loomis arrived here with his bride Sunday a.m. and is visiting at the residence of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Loomis.

Mr. Loomis holds a highly responsible position at Marshalltown, Iowa, as train dispatcher on the Iowa Central Railway.

From heresay we understand that Will Loomis learned telegraphy in the local railway station and worked his way up to high position, even above the one mentioned above.

Mrs. Milford Loomis passed away February 21, 1906 and Mr. Loomis and his daughter Maud continued to live in the same house until his death on June 21, 1908. Mr. and Mrs. Milford Loomis became members of the Congregational church, Columbus, March 9, 1867.

His funeral was held at 5 o'clock Wednesday p.m. June 23 from his home, with Rev. Robert Hopkin, of Olivet Congregational Church, conducting the services, and interment on the family lot at Hillside Cemetery.

Among the many local carpenters and builders, then and since, are a number who learned their trade working for Milford Loomis. Only recently Robert M. Jones, 605 Hibbard Street, told the writer that his father, a prominent builder here fifty years ago, had learned the trade while working for Mr. Loomis.

He was known far and wide for the excellence of his work. He numbered not only the "old settlers" among his friends, but all who knew him.

We regret that no pictures of members of this family seem to be available.

Nathaniel Loomis

All we know about Nathaniel Loomis, second son of Warren Loomis, is mention of his name in the 1860 census records, Vol. 1, page 464, August 17, 1860, of State Historical Society, which shows that Nathaniel, age 30, is listed as a member of the family of Warren Loomis, and his birthplace as New York.

And in the 1870 census, Vol 1, page 107, of June 6, 1870, Nathaniel is listed as age 40. Our surmise is that Nathaniel was probably unmarried, worked with his father Warren, as a carpenter and house mover, lived at home, and never did anything to "get his name" in the paper, unless it was a notice of death, and since no research has or likely will be made, we will let it go at that.

Harrison Loomis

Only in the 1860 census records mentioned first above, do we find reference to Harrison Loomis,

who in this record is listed as 17 years old, so he would have been born in 1843, in New York, which is given as the state of birth.

He does not show up in the records of 1870 census. There are several suppositions; one is that he had not lived until 1870; another is that he may have married and had a home of his own; still another is that he had gone elsewhere, for example of Minnesota when his uncles and cousins mentioned elsewhere moved there. All we can do is to close the record here.

Harvey Loomis

Harvey Loomis, so far as we can determine, was the third child of thirteen born to Warren Loomis.

He was born at Union, Broome County, N. Y., March 1, 1834, the maiden name of his mother not being of record here. He was a boy of about eleven when his father, five sons and his second wife, Sarah Berkley, left N. Y. for Wisconsin territory, in the summer or fall of 1845.

It is not known in what house Warren Loomis lived when he came to Columbus, and it was probably a temporary abode for a short period, but being a builder by trade the assumption is that he acquired ground upon which he built his own house for the homestead, at the earliest possible time.

Harvey Loomis grew up, attending school in the village school, worked with his father and older brothers, and became a carpenter and builder himself for a few years. However it is known from research in the Columbus newspapers that he entered the business of store keeping, prior to the opening of the Civil War.

He Goes Into Business

"His first venture was as part owner of a general store with a partner, Mr. J. D. Slade, in an old building near the present site of the Quickenden (now Kalk) drug store" is a quotation from his obituary in the Democrat of February 1, 1907, and later, in about 1861 he entered into a partnership in a general store with Edward Jones." In doing some research for another family story in the papers of 1857 to 1859 we ran across the following item that pinpoints the time, approximately, of his first or second year.

From the issue, of June 12, 1857 we quote the following announcement.

Announcement:

New Firm—and New Goods. Hulbert and Loomis, successors to Loomis and Slade—two doors south of Griswolds, opposite the Exchange, on Madison St. (now Ludington).

J. W. Hulbert—H. Loomis

Another notice in the issue of January 17, 1859 was announcement of dissolution of the firm.

His Second Venture

However, after considerable research we find that May 8, 1859 the newspaper carried the following display advertisement two columns wide and 10½ inches high, while we cannot reproduce the ad in the type faces used, we do herewith reproduce the contents in reading type for the edification of our readers.

Cash! Cash! Cash! New stock of spring and summer goods. Jones and Loomis are now receiving an immense stock of Staple and Domestic Dry Goods, Groceries and Provisions, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, Hats and Caps, &C. which they will sell at wholesale or retail. At Greatly Reduced Prices For Cash or Ready Pay!

Our stocks of Choice Family Groceries is complete consisting of sugars, teas, coffee, tobacco, molasses and syrups, pork, butter, cheese, eggs, hams and shoulders, and fish of all kinds. We are selling Thirteen Pounds of Good Muncovado, or Twelve Pounds of the best quality of Portorico Sugar for One Dollar.

Teas that will suit the most fastidious from Three to Six Shillings per Pound. Coffee at One Shilling* per Pound. Dried Fruit, in great variety.

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The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 348

Thursday, March 20



All kinds of Country Produce taken in exchange for goods. Remember the place, Griswolds Old Store. Please call and see E. W. Jones and H. Loomis. Columbus, May 8, 1859.

Additional Advertising

In addition to the display advertisement, there was on the same page, six small ads, as follows:

"A small lot of Dried Black Berries just received and for sale at the store of Jones and Loomis."

"White Fish and Trout by the ½ barrel. Jones & Loomis." Do not pay big credit prices for your Dry Goods. They can be bought just as much cheaper for Ready Pay, as Groceries or anything else can. Try us and See." Jones & Loomis.

"If you want a first rate article of Young Hyson Tea for 37½ cents per pound, call on Jones & Loomis."

"Boots and Shoes of every description at Jones & Loomis."

The above definably fixes the date of his second business venture.

Mr. Griswold Enters

Without further research for accuracy of dates we quote from his obituary "About 1863 E. S. Griswold bought out Mr. Jones's share of the business, which was continued as Loomis & Griswold as the style of the firm until about 1865 when Mr. Griswold became sole proprietor. Mr. Loomis then bought the shoe manufacturing shop of Mr. Starks and for several years was engaged in the manufacture and repairing of shoes.

Still later Mr. Thomas Randall opened a grocery store in one side of the building, and some time later Mr. Loomis bought the grocery stock of Mr. Randall, and personally owned both the boot and shoe shop and the grocery store, operating them until his sickness and death.

Mrs. Harvey Loomis

Harvey Loomis was married to Miss Clarinda Noel of Columbus, on June 13, 1858. They were blessed with four children, Nellie A., Guy N., Paul and May who became Mrs. A. L. Wright of Lake Mills.

In January 1867 both Mr. and Mrs. Loomis became members of Olivet Congregational church, which they had been attending. Mr. Loomis was active serving as Clerk for many years, the first minutes in his handwriting being dated December 27, 1869.

He was also superintendent of the Sunday School for many years, and was a Deacon at various times.

His House

We have documentary proof of where Harvey Loomis lived from October 1858 until his death January 27, 1907. Having come to Columbus in 1902, the writer recalled an impression he had as to where both Milford and Harvey Loomis families lived, we checked the abstract of Walter Bock's house at the Corner of W. James and Spring streets No. 252, West James, which for years has been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Russell Andler and family, and found, as we expected to that this was the Harvey Loomis home.

It was acquired by Mr. Loomis October 6, 1858 by purchase from Augustin A. Huntington for an un-disclosed figure. Upon his death, according to his will, the property was to go to his oldest and un-married daughter, and all the rest, residue and remainder of his estate was to go, in equal portions to his sons, Guy and Paul Loomis and his two daughters Mary or May Loomis Wright, and Nellie A. Loomis, the latter being named as the executor of his will.

Miss Nellie was his housekeeper, and for years was the only child at home.

In October 1907 the house was sold, subject to a small existing mortgage, to Lawrence Callahan, who a year later, sold it to John Bock. Mr. Bock died in 1934 and his widow Alvina continued to live there until her death in 1937. In the closing of the John Bock estate, the house was acquired by Walter Bock, the present owner.

Early pioneer owners of the property as disclosed by the abstract were Lewis Ludington, Reuben W. Chadbourn, Emerson Thayer and Augustin A. Huntington. Holders of mortgages on the property in early years were Robert F. Tomkins, Henry A. Whitney, Frederick F. Farnham and Reuben W. Chadbourn, at various times.

The writer's surmise is that the lot was vacant until it was acquired by Emerson Thayer (who was a carpenter and builder) in June, 1855, and that he built the house that same year. Our reasons for this assumption are 1st that Mr. Thayer was a builder, and 2nd that the earliest mortgage on the property was put on the following year.

Death of Mrs. Loomis

The former Clarinda Adelaide Noel of Columbus who was married to Harvey Loomis June 13, 1853 died in her home on Saturday, August 1, 1885, aged 46 years.

She was born in Lockport, Illinois April 14, 1839. Six children were born to them, two dying in infancy. She left to mourn her loss, four children, two sons and two daughters, besides an adopted son who received the same loving care as her own children.

She and her husband united with the Olivet Congregational Church of Columbus in January 1867, of which church they had been attendants for some time.

Mrs. Loomis was active, and sadly missed by both church and Sunday School, where she had been a teacher for many years.

Miss Nellie Ada Loomis

Since we have found a well written obituary giving a good account of her life and activities we reproduce it herewith, followed by a few additional items.

Obit. Miss Nellie Loomis

From Columbus Democrat
Wednesday, May 8, 1935

"Nellie Ada Loomis was born at Columbus, Wisconsin February 6, 1860, the daughter of Harvey and Clarinda Loomis.

She passed away at the home of her sister, Mrs. May Wright, at Gresham, Oregon, on April 30 at the age of 75 years, 2 months and 28 days.

She was graduated from the Columbus high school in 1878 and then attended Ripon College for two years.

She was teaching school in northern Michigan when called home by the illness of her mother.

She remained with her until her death in 1885, and then took over the care of the household looking after the father and three younger children.

After the death of the father in 1907, she went to Madison and took the Library Training course and then was librarian of the Columbus Public Library for about twenty years.

The last eight years of her life were passed at Gresham, Oregon (near Portland) with her sister, who with two brothers Guy N. and A. Paul Loomis, both of Phoenix, Arizona, survive her.

Miss Loomis was a life long member of the Olivet Congregational church, and was clerk of that church for many years. She was also a member of the D.A.R. and was proud of her historic lineage.

During her residence at Gresham she was a useful member of the Womans Home Missionary Society and of the Ladies Aid of the M. E. Church.

Funeral services were held at the Jones Mortuary at Columbus on Saturday, May 4."

After conferring with Rev. L. C. Partch, who was her pastor here for many years, after refreshing his memory by referring to his diary, he added that all the arrangements for her funeral and burial were made by Miss Loomis herself some years before her death.

She attended Sunday School at Congregational Church, was admitted to membership, Sunday July 9, 1871, and at the same service her brother Guy Noel Loomis was baptized by Rev. H. A. Miner who had accepted a call to the pastorate in March 1871 after having served the church on a temporary basis from time to time from November 1870, coming here from Monroe, Wisconsin.

Nellie's father Harvey Loomis had served the church in various offices, and especially as Clerk for many years. Later, and also for many years Miss Nellie served the church as clerk. Her uncle Milford Loomis, was also active, as his name is found in the minute book of the church society.

After she became librarian along about 1910, and it is the writers recollection that the new and attractive library was built shortly after Miss Loomis became librarian.

She and her cousin Maud Loomis had an apartment in the John Swarthout home, the white pillared house just back of the library. For a time she lived with her relatives, the Curtis Shepards. Later after retirement she made her home with her younger sister May, Mrs. A. L. Wright, a widow, then living at Gresham, Oregon, where she died April 30, 1935.

She was brought here for burial on the family lot at Hillside beside her father and mother and John Paul Wright, a nephew, son of Alexander H. and May Loomis Wright, who died January 5, 1914. It is not known when either A. H. Wright or his wife May died.

Guy and A. Paul Loomis

We do not have much up to date information about the sons of Harvey Loomis. We learn, from the obit of their father in 1907, that they were at that time residents of Glen Flora, Texas. Guy was married to Miss Lina Holt a resident of rural Columbus. A family neighbor and friend was Mr. Orin J. Trobridge, well known in dairy circles, as he was the owner of one or more creameries in this area, more than 50 years ago.

He bought land at Glen Flora, Texas, and several Columbus people also went, among them, the two Loomis boys, Paul being unmarried at that time.

However they came back to Wisconsin, and somewhat later went to Arizona because of health conditions. In the local paper in January 1940 we find the obituary of Guy N. Loomis, from which we learn that his marriage to Miss Lina Holt was March 20, 1901, and that he and his wife moved to Scottsdale, Arizona in 1912. He died at the age of 70 and was buried in Phoenix, Arizona. At that time he was survived by his wife and an adopted daughter, Mrs. Jere Long jr. both of Phoenix.

When they first went to Arizona he was engaged in ranching in the Scottsdale area, but later moved to the village, where he became active in Civic affairs, serving for two terms as a member of the school board. He was also a member of the Phoenix area soil conservation committee at the time of his death.

Because both Guy and Paul and their wives were childless, each couple adopted a daughter. Paul is dead but we do not have the date and as this is written have not found an obituary, but we understand his widow is still living at Benson, Arizona. Paul's move to Arizona must have been after 1916, as we find that Paul, for a period of a year or two, was Supt. of the local Light and Water plant.

When the ill fated Badger Motor Company was organized Whit Smith Supt., resigned his position at the Power House and was succeeded by G. W. Mack for a few years; upon Mr. Mack's resignation, Paul Loomis, one of the employees, became Supt. and served until September 1916 when he resigned because of ill health, and was succeeded by the late Frank Roob, an employee, in line for promotion. It is recalled in the story about the various Bands we have had in Columbus, that Harvey Loomis was a member of our first, a Sax horn band, 100 years ago, and his son Paul played in the Columbus Concert Band about 1900. His picture appeared with other members, in installment No. 288, January 24, 1957, Story of Columbus.

James Loomis

Unfortunately we have very little information on this younger son of Warren Loomis.

He was the last on the list of thirteen children whose names we have previously listed, out of the thirteen born to Warren, according to his obituary.

From the census records obtained from the State Historical Society, obtained by Mrs. Smith of Grand Rapids, Michigan, we find that the 1860 census showed James as six years old, the 1870 as 16.

From the clerk of the county of Kent, state of Michigan, copy of certificate of death of James P. Loomis shows names of parents as Warren Loomis and Sarah Berkley; place of birth, Wisconsin; place of death, Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 9, 1924 aged 69 years, 0 months and 4 days.

From the Dept. of Public Health, State of California, Mary Elizabeth Loomis, residence

4716 Mascot Street, Los Angeles, the place of death on April 19, 1932, at the age of 75 years, 2 months and 15 days.

Place and date of birth was "near Chicago" February 2, 1857. Parents names Escral Vezina Visner, of France and Sophey Hall born in Canada. Husband, James P. Loomis.

Place and date of marriage of James Loomis and Sophey Hall Visner, is not known to this writer nor names of children if any.

Washington Loomis

In a two volume History of Columbia County published by J. E. Jones, Portage, Wisconsin in 1914 we find the following biography of Washington Loomis which we quote in part and to which we have added in parenthesis a few words of clarification:

"Washington Loomis. One of the oldest families of Columbia County is that of Loomis, represented by Washington Loomis, who for 35 or 40 years has occupied a finely improved country estate in Fall River, Wisconsin, Fountain Prairie township. Mr. Loomis has lived in Columbia County since he was seven months old.

As a boy he witnessed the pioneer scenes, and the activities and incidents of early settlement, and since attaining to manhood has born his full share of the labours and responsibilities of farming and good citizenship.

Washington Loomis was born in Broome County, New York, January 25, 1845. His father was Warren Loomis, born in the same county in New York, May 2, 1799.

Warren Loomis's second wife, was Sarah Berkley, who was born near Albany, New York. They were married in Broome County, and in 1845 journeyed West, by lake, canal and team and wagon, finally making halt in Columbia County, Wisconsin at the village of Columbus on the site of which stood only three buildings. (incorrect)

Warren Loomis was a mechanic and in his home state had engaged in the lumbering business and in carpentry and after coming to Columbia County followed his trade of a carpenter and also did much business in the moving of buildings. His home was in Columbus the rest of his years and he was a well known and highly esteemed pioneer. After his death his widow made her home with her son, Washington.

Washington Loomis was seven months old the family came to Columbia County and his schooling was that supplied by the early schools of Columbia County.

Military Record

In the fall of 1864, when he was nineteen years of age, he joined the Forty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry, in Company K, but never saw actual fighting. He was mustered out of service September 28, 1865 at Paducah, Kentucky. (A published history of the Civil War indicates the regiment arrived at Madison September 2, 1865, where they were paid and disbanded.)

Returning to Columbus he followed the trade of carpenter for a few years, working for his father, and at times for Martin Starkweather, and in the fall of 1868 moved to Fall River. There his attention was given to the manufacturing of wagons, but some twenty-five years later he became closely identified with farming operations in Fountain Prairie township.

He had a partner in the shop where wagons, carriages and cutters or sleighs, were made, Courtney Starkweather of Columbus who had also been a carpenter, both of them working for and under Washington's father, Warren Loomis.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 349

Thursday, April 3



Marriage

In 1868 (having moved to Fall River), Mr. Loomis was married to Miss Imogene Plummer, a daughter of George and Rachael Plummer. To their marriage have been born one son and two daughters. Omar, the son, married Miss Eva Huggett, and still (1914) lives on his father's farm.

Bertha, who is the oldest of the children, married Edgar Kirk. Josephine, the other daughter

WANTED

Photographs, even fntypes of the following former citizens of Columbus, either singly or one of a group. For use in the story of Columbus.

We need your help: Anyone having or knowing who may have a picture of any of the following please telephone 117.

Frank Huggins, Silas Axtell, Andrew O. Sexton, B. E. Johnson, Mark Wilkin.

was married to Edgar Wright. All of the children were born in Fall River.

Mrs. Loomis (Imogene Plummer) is also a native of New York State, her family having moved west, and located in Columbia County in the early fifties, her parents spending the rest of their lives in Fall River.

For about 40 years as of 1914, Mr. Loomis has occupied his present home, and his energies have been chiefly devoted to farming.

He is the owner of 410 acres, and nearly all the buildings and improvements have been made under his supervision or as a result of his own labor. When he first moved to his farm, where he spent eleven years, the improvements consisted of a small log cabin and a little frame house, and he went through a great deal of pioneer experience before he got his family comfortably established.

The Loomis family is one of the very old American families. The ancestry of Mr. Loomis can be traced back through about ten generations to Joseph Loomis, who came to this country in 1639 and settled at Windsor, Connecticut. The land which he received there as a grant from the English government, has been passed on through the successive generations and is still (1914) owned by the Loomis family.

Subscription made by the Loomises, built the Loomis Institute, a school; and as a family it has long been powerful and influential in different parts of the country.

A Columbia County Atlas of 1916, shows that Washington Loomis owned 200 acres, on which the buildings stood, in section 22, attached to which, on the south was 47 acres in Sect. 27; and 160 acres adjoined the 200, on the East in Sec. 22, on which quarter section another set of buildings are indicated. A highway running from southwest to northeast bi-sects all three of the pieces mentioned above. The same atlas, in the plat of Fall River, shows that Mr. Loomis owned most of block 6, or about a dozen lots facing on South st. and Church st. in the village.

His Church

Mr. Loomis has taken a very active part in the organization and affairs of the Methodist Episcopal church, near his home. In the construction of the edifice he was superintendent of the carpenter work himself. The church stands just across the street from his home, and is a very attractive place of worship. Mr. Loomis' mother was a Methodist in the church in Columbus, and his wife's family are of the same faith.

In politics Mr. Loomis is a Republican as was his father (Warren Loomis) before him." End of quotation.

And from his obituary published in the local paper December 2, 1938, and from various other sources we have found other items concerning his later life.

His War Record

He did not become identified with Fall River until about three years following his return after a brief period in the Army in the last few months

of the Civil War, in which he was not engaged in actual combat.

The roster of soldiers from Columbia County, as published in Columbia County History in 1880 is far from complete, for example, for some reason none are listed in units formed later than the 32nd Regiment.

Additional units were organized in the last few months of the war up to the 53rd regiment.

Washington Loomis was a grown boy of nearly twenty years of age, living in his fathers home in Columbus, working for his father as a carpenter, when he enlisted in the 44th Wisconsin Vol. Inftry.

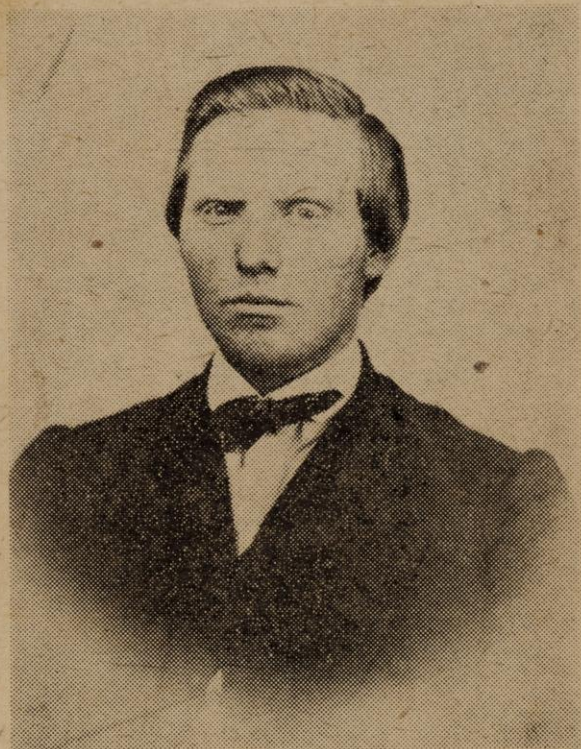
They Were Methodists

His mother Sarah Berkley was a member of the M. E. Church in Columbus, and presumably her children of whom there were seven younger than Washington were in the M. E. Sunday school. The church at that time was a wooden building that stood at the N. E. corner of Birdsey and Mill streets where the home of Mrs. Joseph Hughes 458 W. Mill street now stands.

His Partner

Washington was a close friend of Courtney Starkweather, who later became the father of Charles Starkweather of Beaver Dam. Courtney, also a carpenter, was injured when a scaffolding on which he was working, broke down; and upon his recovery he was advised to discontinue climbing and working aloft, and confine himself to work on the ground.

It was for this reason that he became a partner of Washington Loomis, about the time the latter was married to Miss Imogene Pummer of Fall River in 1868. The partners operated for a few years, in a Wagon Shop where they also made buggies, sleighs, etc. which Washington continued alone for many years after Courtney was married to a Fox Lake girl and



Courtney Starkweather

bought a lumber yard in Beaver Dam. The partners were lifelong friends.

Man of Many Interests

We have not searched the abstract of title on the land Washington Loomis once owned, and therefore cannot give specific dates.

In the biography in Jone's history, perhaps written by himself, or at least from data supplied by him, we read "When he first moved to his farm where he spent eleven years, the improvements consisted of a small log cabin and a little farm house, and he went through a great deal of pioneer experience before he got his family comfortably established."

(continued next week)



"Washington Loomis Family"

From the obituary of Washington Loomis, December 1938, we quote, "A half century and more ago he was operating a wagon shop, a blacksmith shop, and a harness shop. He built for surrounding territory, wagons, buggies, plows, harness and other farming equipment and did general repair work on every kind of farm tools and machinery. For a considerable period he was, to use a modern term, "the industrialist of Fall River."

Whatever the years may have been when he bought his first piece of land, lived on the farm and built his comfortable home, across the street from the Methodist Church, the later years of his life must have been fairly comfortable and free from want.

Their Children

The oldest of their three children was Bertha, date of birth not found, who grew up to become Mrs. Edgar Kirk, who as of 1938 resided in Long Beach, California.

Their second born was a son Omar, born in 1875 and their third was a daughter, Josephine, who became the wife of Edgar Wright. A son Ascher died when less than two months old, in 1872.

Mr. Loomis always took a keen interest in civic affairs. For many years he was a member of the school board in which his interest never diminished. He prided himself for the amounts he paid in taxes to support local, county and state government. In his day federal taxes were not burdensome.

G.A.R.

But in later years of his life his greatest interest was in helping to organize and build up the membership of the G.A.R. (Grand Army



of the Republic) Post in Fall River, of which when his time came, he was the last survivor.

When Washington Loomis and his wife moved into their new home in Fall River, of which he was the builder, they left the farm in the hands of their only son Omar.

We show here a picture of Mr. and Mrs.

Loomis which must have been taken more than 30 years ago, as she died in 1927.

We presume the chicken yard shown was on the farm, and since their son died in 1917, at the untimely age of 41, the picture could have been taken over 40 years or more ago.

Nearly 94 Years Old

The span of his life, except for his first seven months, and the few months of his war service, was all spent, so far as we know in Columbia County. He died in his home in Fall River November 30, 1938, having lived eleven years beyond the death of his wife.

At the time of his death he was short only about two months of being ninety-four years of age. He was also the last survivor of the Boys in Blue, who were engaged in that gigantic struggle, the Civil War.

The closing paragraph of his obituary reads "And now to him goes the distinction of being the last of the soldiers of that Grand Army from his locality to be called from the field to this last encampment on the hill."

At the time of his death Mr. Loomis was survived by one daughter, six grandchildren, nine great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

His Wife

Mrs. Washington Loomis, the former Imogene Plummer died at the age of 77 in her home in Fall River on July 12, 1927.

Her funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. R. Jones, the Methodist minister, at 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 14, with burial at Fall River cemetery.

Omar Loomis

The only son of Washington Loomis was Omar, born July 8, 1875 in Fall River and died November 24, 1917, aged 41 year 11 months and 4 days.

He was baptized December 5, 1875 and united with the Methodist Church in Fall River in 1885.

He spent most of his adult life on his father's farm, previously mentioned, which he probably took over about the time of his marriage to Miss Eva C. Huggett of Fall River December 20, 1894.

They became parents of two children, a daughter Blanche, born December 2, 1900 and Clarence, born August 28, 1903.

After Omar's death the widow and her two children lived on the farm, the land being worked by Ed Sauer. The daughter Blanche was married to Ed Sauer, born in 1884 early in 1919, the mother and Clarence continued to live with Blanche and her husband. Her mother turned her attention to practical nursing, which she followed for many years, as long as she was able.

For about a year previous to her death Mrs. Eva Huggett Loomis was cared for by her granddaughter, Dorothy, and her husband Leo Barnett, in their home on Highway 16, being bedfast most of the time. She died in November 1954.

Before the death of Washington Loomis in 1938 he had willed the farm to his granddaughter, Blanche, Mrs. Ed Sauer.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 351

Thursday, April 17



Mr. and Mrs. Ed Sauer

Mrs. Blanche Sauer died November 7, 1937. Her husband Ed Sauer is still living as this is written (September 1957). To this union seven children were born, the oldest of whom was a daughter Dorothy Imogene, born December 26, 1919, who was married to Leo Barnett, Doylestown, August 7, 1941.

She attended school in Fall River, and County Normal in Columbus, from which she graduated, and became a school teacher. Her husband was a farmer and also a locally famous baseball player, playing with the Columbus Blue's about the mid nineteen thirties.

They had one son Philip, 12 years of age as this is written. Mr. Barnett died October 10, 1954. Mrs. Barnett, who lives in an attractive home on highway 16 west of Fall River, is presently a teacher in the Fuller Street School of Columbus. She has been very helpful in helping to gather portions of the Loomis Story and in supplying some of the photographs.



Dorothy Barnett

Second child of Ed and Blanch Sauer, was Floyd (Mike) Sauer born December 2, 1920, whose wife was Dorothy Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller.

Floyd is engaged in excavating, having a trenching machine, bulldozer, trucks, etc. and keeps very busy on one or the other kinds of earth moving. He did most of the trench work in connection with the street widening program in Columbus a couple of years ago.

Floyd and his wife have four children, Lois 12; Michael 11; Mark 8; Lee Ann 3.

Third is Pearl, born June 27, 1922 who was married to Robert Sadowiske and lived on a farm near Lost Lake. They had three children Gene 9; Richard 6; and Ruth 4. Her husband died in April 1954.

Her second husband is Harley Ratz and they have one child William, one year old. They live in Beaver Dam.

Fourth is Warren, born May 15, 1923, who is married to Lucille Lange of Columbus. They

live in Portland, Dodge County. Warren is employed by the Oscar Mayer Company, Madison.

Fifth is Lawrence, born January 11, 1926 who is married to Genevive Kueiper. They live in Portland and he is employed by the Kress Packing Company in Waterloo, Wisconsin. They have five children, Larry 10; Jerry 8; Kathy 6; Jennie 4; and Jamie 1.

Sixth is Roy who was born April 17, 1927 and is married to Luain Biel of Randolph. They live north of Columbus on Highway 13 and have four children, Ronnie 12; Roger 9; Randy 3 and Robin 1. Roy is employed by the Oscar Mayer Company, Madison.

Seventh is Eva Mae, born February 2, 1931 and is the wife of Arden Neuman of Randolph. They have a farm near Lost Lake, and have two children, Gerry 3 and Terry three months.

The seven children of Blanch Loomis and Ed Sauer, are all great grandchildren of Washington Loomis; the 21 grandchildren are his great, great, grandchildren.

Clarence Loomis

Clarence Loomis, son of Omar Loomis and Eva Huggett, and brother of Blanch, was born August 28th, 1903 and was only fourteen at the time of his father's death, too young to take over the farming operations that had been carried on by his father, on the farm of Washington Loomis.

He attended school, grew up on the farm and became a farmer, and about 1927 was married to Mrs. Ella Huebner a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Huebner.

For many years he has lived and farmed on a farm known as the Thomas farm and later as the Linck and Thomas farm in section 36 Town of Fountain Prairie.

To this union there was born two sons, Duane, born March 29th 1933, and who recently became a married man; and Dennis, born April 5th, 1943.



Clarence Loomis, his wife and son
Bertha Loomis Kirk

Washington Loomis's first born, a daughter was Bertha, who was married to Edgar Kirk, and moved to California many years ago. They had one daughter Ruth; relatives here say that Ruth is single so far as they know.

Josephine Loomis Wright

The youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Washington Loomis, was Josephine Lorinda, born December 1st 1879, in Fall River at her parents home across the street from the Methodist church. She was married to Edgar E. Wright, of the Fall River area and they became the parents of four sons.

(continued next week)



We show here a snap shot of Edgar Wright seated, with his four sons, from left to right. Lawrence, Milford, Robert and Charles.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 352

Thursday, April 24



While her family and friends knew that she was quite seriously ill, her death on February 7th 1923 was unexpected and came as a great shock to family and friends.

Right after they were married, the young couple lived on and farmed the Scott farm south of Rio, Wisconsin, and here their first son, Charles Arthur, was born November 5th, 1906; shortly after they moved to Texas, (place unknown to the writer) and after a few years moved back to Wisconsin, locating in Pardeeville, where they lived for a few years, Edgar being employed in the Hughes department store and at the North Star Nursery..

Their second son, Robert Cornell, was born in Pardeeville May 29th 1912, and their third, Milford Warner on October 30th 1913. Soon thereafter, the family moved to the Proctor farm on present Highway 16, west of Fall River.

Here they lived for about ten years, and here, on January 29th 1923 their fourth son Lawrence Sidney was born, Josephine the mother died only about ten days later.

Lawrence was taken to raise by his aunt, Mrs. Anna Miller of Fall River.

Edgar, the father lived for thirty years after his wife's death, passing away October 20th, 1953 and is buried beside his wife at the Fall River cemetery.

Charles Arthur Wright

Charles attended the first grade of school in Pardeeville, and through up to and including the 7th grade at Mudd school in Fountain Prairie. His 8th grade was in the Fall River school under Miss Councilman.

He attended High School in Columbus, and after graduating, attended Columbia County Normal school in Columbus.

He was married October 10th, 1935 to Miss Lorraine S. Austin, daughter of Lewis and Ruth Austin, of Columbus, who was born September 13th 1914. The couple are parents of two daughters, Ruth Josephine, born June 16th, 1936, and Charlotte Ann, born September 26th, 1941.

Ruth was married October 27th, 1956 at Milwaukee, to James A. Schramek: They live at 2429A, 34th St., and have a daughter Lisa Marie, born September 13th, 1957.

Charles A. and his wife Lorraine now live at 1614 Linden Way, Sioux City, Iowa; their daughter Charlotte who is now past 16 and is still in school, is living at home.

Charleh, is a construction engineer for Tower Construction Company, in charge of operations over a large area: We express our thanks to him for supplying the data used regarding his foster mother and brothers.

Robert Cornell Wright

Robert Cornell Wright, was born in Pardeeville, Wisconsin May 29th, 1912, grew up on the Proctor Farm, attended elementary school at Mudd school, and in Fall River; attended and

graduated from Columbus High school, after which he attended County Normal school in Columbus; He then attended Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, from which he graduated in 1937 with a degree of B.A.

He was married May 30th, 1938 to Miss Lucy Salzman, daughter of John and Julian Salzman of Madison, Wisconsin who was born June 8th, 1912.

They are parents of three daughters and one son; Lucille Gertrude, born November 29th, 1940; Jean Marie born August 21st, 1942 and Patricia Louise, born October 5th, 1944.

Their son Robert Charles was born April 27th, 1948. Robert is and has been, ever since finishing his education, in the Field of Education, and since 1945 has been in the school systems at Portage, Wisconsin; He is presently teacher of social problems in the high school. His earlier experience was 1937-1948 Rural schools in Columbia county; principal state graded school, Blue Mounds 1940-41; Principal Riverside state graded school, Rock County, Beloit 1941-43; Badger Ordinance 1943-45.

Milford Warner Wright

Milford Warner Wright was born in Pardeeville October 30, 1913, and attended Mudd school and Fall River school for his elementary work, then attended and graduated from the Columbus high school. He was married on May 28th, 1938 to Miss Esther Velnicki, daughter of Michael and Sophia Velnickie of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin who was born in September 8th, 1909. They live at 531 S. Lewis Street, Columbus.

After graduating from C.H.S. he started work for Marshall Wright, with whom he remained from 1934 to February 1942; from February 1942 to the present, he has been working for the Borden Co. with which company he will have completed sixteen years as of February 1958. The couple have no children.

Lawrence Sidney Wright

The youngest son of Edgar and Josephine Loomis Wright, is Lawrence, born January 29th, 1932, on the "Proctor Farm"; his mother died about ten days later and he was brought up by his aunt, Mrs. Anna Miller of Fall River. He completed his elementary and high school education in Fall River. He then entered Stout Institute at Menominee, Wisconsin, where his education was interrupted by a call from the U. S. Navy.

Following his discharge from active duty, he returned to Stout where he graduated in 1947 with a B.S. degree. He was married May 30th, 1945 to Miss Jeanette Hamann, daughter of Clarence and Lorinda Hamann of this city.

Lawrence is assistant professor of Industrial Arts at the Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls, Iowa, where he has been since 1949, with the exception of two years, 1951-53 when he was re-called by the Navy for active duty, this time as assistant officer in charge of the Instructor training school at Great Lakes, Ill.

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS"



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 353

Thursday, May 1



He holds both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science with a major in Industrial Education from Stout Institute, and in 1954 he was awarded the Dr. of Education degree from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo.

His first experience in teaching was the Navy, where he taught Marine Navigation for six months. Then he became assistant instructor in engineering drawing at the College of Engineering, University of Missouri, 1948-49. He went to Cedar Falls from the U. of M. in 1949. At Cedar Falls he teaches professional subjects in Industrial Arts, drafting, and is a member of the graduate faculty.

Lawrence and Jeanette, are the parents of the daughters, Rebecca Ann, aged 9. and Sandra Jean, aged 5.

The Bellack Families

One of the prominent names of this area in the period of the 1890's and up through the 1930's, was that of Bellack. They were not among our early pioneers, as far as this immediate area is concerned, but the patriarch of the family in Wisconsin was Herman Bellack, born in Leipnic, Hungary, in 1825, who came to the U.S. in 1849, locating in Milwaukee where he engaged in the wholesale grocery business together with a partner named Schram, in a building on the site of the present Plankinton Arcade, which in turn was built to replace the original Plankinton Hotel.

This business was carried on for some years but some time prior to 1860 the partnership was terminated and Mr. Bellack became engaged in a "dry goods and lotions" business. In late 1860 or 1861 he moved his business and family to Watertown where he was in business for many years. So far as we know, Herman was never a citizen of Columbus.

Shortly after his death in April, 1907, his widow, the former Miss Werchutz, who was a native of Vienna, Austria, moved to Chicago to make her home with her daughter, Miss Clara. She died in May, 1922 in Chicago and is buried in Watertown. She was the mother of several children, only two of whom became residents of Columbus, and therefore no research has been done on those who never lived here.

Albert M. Bellack

Albert M. Bellack, better known here as "Dick" was born in Milwaukee, January 20th, 1860, and was destined later to become one of the best known and successful merchants and leader in business and civic affairs in Columbus. When "Dick" was very young, his parents moved from Milwaukee to Watertown, where the father continued in business for many years.

Both "Dick" and his next younger brother, Bernhard, born in Watertown grew up and were educated in the public schools of that city. Albert was graduated in the first graduating class of the Watertown high school, in 1873, at which time he was less than fourteen years of age, intelligent to have graduated so young.

He Goes To Chicago

It is also of record that about 1874 he went or was sent to Chicago to work in a wholesale Hat Concern, where he must have progressed rapidly, and may even have changed his job to acquire experience in mens clothing and furnishings, for we find that about 1879 or 80 he was joined by his brother Bernhard (Bonny) and together, opened a Mens Clothing and Furnishing store on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago.

This venture was not as successful as had been hoped and after two or three years it was decided to move their activities to some small town in Wisconsin.

The Brothers

In September, 1833 the brothers looked the situation over in Columbus and made arrangements to move their stock to Columbus. The actual opening of the store, in the Hayden building next door to Lueders and Krauses Produce store was announced in our local paper of October 19th, 1883 as follows:

"H. Bellack & Sons, late of Watertown, Wis. are opening a merchant Tailoring and Mens Clothing store in Hayden Bros., old store next door to Lueders & Krause's Commission store."

We find another item in the paper of June, 20, 1884 which reads, "Mr. B. F. Bellack, of this city went to Chicago Sunday morning, having accepted a situation in a wholesale house of that city, of which an elder brother is one of the proprietors."

He will be greatly missed in the Cornet Band, as he is an accomplished musician and a genial fellow. A younger brother from Watertown is now assisting in the store.

In the Columbus Democrat of October 24, 1884 we note a news item reading "H. Bellack & Sons have rented the store next to their present location, formerly occupied by R. Griffith and have opened up an immense stock of overcoats, all styles and sizes, which they are selling at bed rock prices. We call attention to their advertisement on this page."

The advertisement read. "Bargains—Bargains. On account of a change in business, H. Bellack & Sons will close out their entire stock of men's, boys and children's clothing, Furnishing goods, Hats and caps. Below costs.

800 overcoats, all styles at Panic Prices.

This advertisement continued, without charge until the year end — Last ad being December 26, 1884.

Apparently Bernhard (Bonny); was not happy in the big city for in November 4, 1884 the paper contained an item indicating that he was back in Columbus. "The Cornet Band has recently purchased a fine silver B flat cornet to be used by Mr. B. F. Bellack; it is a fine instrument and Bonny will play it in an artistic manner."

The April 10th, 1885 issue said, "Bellack Bros. have moved their stock of clothing and mens furnishings to the store formerly occupied by Mr. Griffith, one door west of their former location. This store has been fitted up in good shape and is larger and more convenient than their former location." (Note change in firm name: The building referred to would be that now and for several years has been occupied by Western Auto Stores Co.)

Open A Store In Ft. Atkinson

In mid-summer of 1885 still another item appeared as follows. "We regret to record a change in the firm of our enterprising Clothiers, Bellack Bros. (note change in firm name.) The junior member leaving shortly to take charge of the branch store they are about to establish in Fort Atkinson. During their sojourn in this city they have won the confidence and respect of the community. "Bonny" will be greatly missed among the large circle of friends and the Cornet Band loses a first class musician whose place will be hard to fill.

However the Fort Atkinson branch store did not work out to expectations, and after a year or two 'Bonny' returned to Columbus with his ambition to become a doctor firmly fixed in his mind.

In 1887 Bonny withdrew from the business to enter Medical school in Chicago and the firm name was changed to A. M. Bellack:

Dick Moves Again

The business was carried on, at that location until 1870, some time in that year "Dick" moved his stock to a building on West James St., owned by Lewis J. Sawyer, not the present building, but one nearby.

In 1895 Mr. Sawyer built the new building, the present one, into which Dick moved when it was ready. In 1914 an addition was built at the rear, extending its length 27 feet, an addition was built at the rear, extending its length 27 feet and at the same time the "L" shaped addition was built on the side with a front on what was the Broadway, permitting a side entrance to the store.

This new ell became the Merchant Tailoring Department of the business. Some years later Mr. Bellack purchased the building from Mr. Sawyer.

(continued next week)

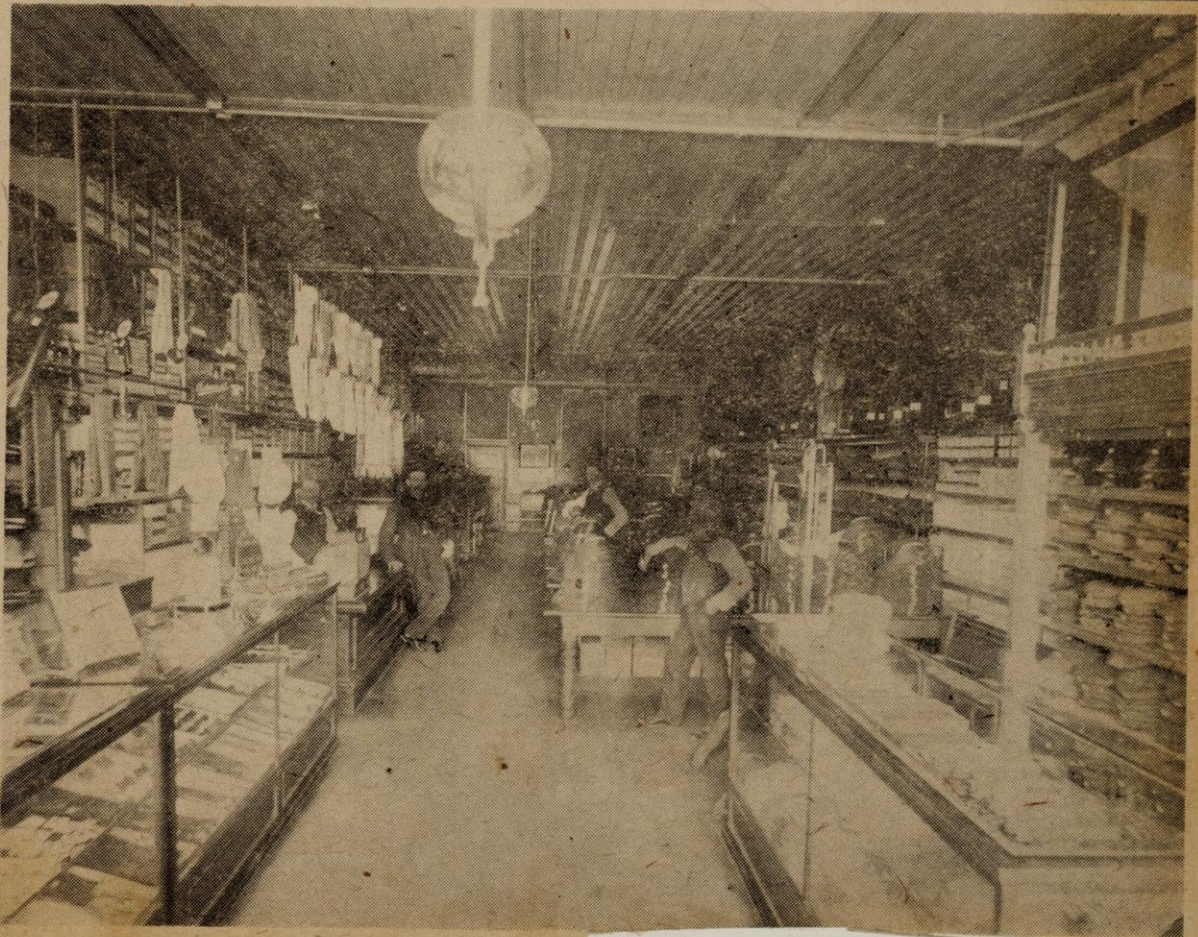
The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."

By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 354

Thursday, May 8, 1958



Picture Interior of the Store

We show here an interior view of the store taken shortly before the turn of the Century, some years before the length of the building was extended.

Willard Joins Father

In 1920, Willard B. Bellack entered the store and a year later became a partner, the firm becoming A. M. Bellack & Son. In 1933 Willard withdrew from the partnership and went to Neenah to accept the position of manager of the Jerseld Knitting Co.

In 1934 Mr. Bellack sold a one half interest in the business to George Jacobson from Lindstrom, Minn., who had previously been connected with a clothing firm at Escanaba, Michigan for twenty one years. The firm name was changed to the Bellack Clothing Co.,

Mr. Bellack died December 8th, 1935, his half interest in the business going to his estate. Upon his death the active management devolved upon Mr. Jacobson.

Here is a good place to insert the names of quite a number of clerks and tailors who at one time or another were in Mr. Bellacks employ, the item being taken from an undated clipping in one of the many scrap books of the late Mrs. Alice Harris, who was herself a capable vest-maker for the store, doing the work in her own home.

Dick's First Clerk and Others

"Mr. Gust Klatt was Mr. Bellacks first clerk 1891-93; William F. Berg began his duties as clerk May 1st, 1893 and was the oldest with the longest service; Wm. F. Gernetzky began work in December 1897; Eugene (John) Feuling started as clerk in 1927; other clerks recalled, dates not mentioned are Leslie Blumenthal and Verner Pietzner, and their were doubtless others.

As tailors, mentioned in the same clipping, perhaps longest and best known, but not the first, was Julius Henriksen, who came in March, 1903, and remained until his death in comparatively recent years; Gerhard Wohlfeil began his work in 1914 and has continued until only recently when impaired health has made it impossible to continue regularly. But numerous others preceded those mentioned above, including, perhaps not in proper order, Fred Wohlfeil (Gerhard's father), Fritz Geisel, Robert Ramson, Abraham Barraclough, Eddie

Height, Aug. Deerhem, John Dudeck, Nic Koch, Gredio And-eiona, Paul Haase and Wm. Haase.

Dynamic Leader

Mr. Bellack was always interested in any movement that would make our good community an even better one, and was always willing to back his judgement with his money. He was, without trying to be, a leader.

It would be impossible without going into a great deal of research to enumerate his activities outside of his own business; but here are some that we have knowledge of. He was one of the organizers of the Advancement Ass'n. and Secy of it, which was organized before the turn of the century. He was active in the Masonic Lodge as well as the Knights of Pythisas Lodge.

He helped organize Columbus Canning Co. in November 1900 and was a director continuously until his death; he was secretary and Manager until 1913 when he relinquished the management to Pres. W. C. Leitsch but remained in this secretaryship until 1923 when he became president upon the death of Mr. Leitsch, his brother Dr. B. F. Bellack succeeding him as secy.

He was president until 1930 when he again became secy.

He was one of the organizers of Badger Motor Car Co. and its president 1909 to 1913 (see installment beginning with No. 257). He was Pres. Wisconsin Cannery Association 1911-12, and a member of the Rotary Club until his death.

Every Civic activity found him willing and able to serve. For many years he was a member of the City Council, and Hillside Cemetery Advisory Board; members of the Board of Columbia County Normal school for eighteen years; member, secy and president at different times of Olivet Mens Club, member of building committee of the first Columbus hospital.

From Q. E. D.

"Tolerant, well informed, possessing a keen mind and excellent business judgment and absolutely square, his advice and council were much sought after and respected, and his efforts in behalf of the public good and civic improvement are largely responsible for Columbus being the healthful and forward city it is."

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."

527



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 355

Thursday, May 15, 1958



He was active in assisting the Firemans Park movement and donated a thousand dollars to build the "deer park" which no longer exists.

He was the spark plug that fired the movement that resulted in our golf course.

We know that we have not enumerated all of his activities which were many, running from member of the fire department in 1889, he being one of the members of the state championship, the alert hose company, (see installment No. 272) up to this paragraph written by Q. E. D. after Dick's death. "As a husband, father, citizen, but most of all as a man, A. M. Bellack was in our humble opinion, the the ranking citizen of Columbus."

Married in 1896."

Albert M. Bellack was married June 3rd, 1896 to Miss Alice Willard of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, a close friend of one of his sisters,

Miss Willard was a direct descendant of Simon Willard who came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634 and settled on the north side of the Charles River in what is now Cambridge, Mass. the seat of Harvard University. Her father had migrated to Wisconsin about 1854 and settled at Milford, Wisconsin and later living in Watertown, Johnson's Creek and finally in Fort Atkinson.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bellack when they began housekeeping was the present Myra Lange home, 256 N. Ludington St., where they lived until the new house was ready to move into, which was finished in 1898. It is the house now owned by James Kelsh, 632 W. James St.,

At that time there was a very old frame house on the corner of James and Lewis St., which Mr. Bellack bought and dismantled, it was an early home of George C. Butterfield, (see Installment No. 105), and was later occupied at various times by a number of different families, including Dr. E. E. Oviatt; and Ha vey Yule.



We reproduce here a picture of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bellack and son Willard taken about the turn of the century.

The Albert M. Bellack Memorial Loan Fund

In August 1946, more than ten years after his death, Mr. Bellack's son Richard, while serving in the administrative branch of the Army, stationed at Frankfurt-on-Main, Germany, founded the A. M. Bellack Memorial loan fund donating to the City of Columbus as trustee, a fund sufficient to earn an amount that would make it possible to loan \$300 per year for four years, to one boy from the graduating class of Columbus high school, each year, desirous of attending the University of Wisconsin but in need of limited financial assistance.

In setting up the Memorial, Richard, then an officer in the Army of the U. S. at Frankfurt-an-Main, Germany, wrote the trustees, consisting of the Mayor of Columbus, the Superintendent of schools, and one citizen, a letter from which these brief excerpts are taken:

"Because you knew my father, you can appreciate why I wanted some kind of memorial that would be useful to the people of Columbus. I am sure that anything ostentatious, and positive that anything useless, would bring a muttered "bunch of damn nonsense" from wherever his spirit is.

He saw value in material things only if they brought value to the people of Columbus was considerably more useful than if it achieved the same result somewhere else.

"Also, it seemed most fitting that the memorial should have something to do with boys. Between the Canning company and the store, and two sons who kept the house full of boys, I think he knew every male between the ages of four and ninety-four in the city, and within ten miles of it.

Needless to say, the loans should be offered to boys, without consideration of race, religion, or national origin, because qualities of mind that make a boy into a useful man, have no connection with those rather minor matters.

"A boy can play pool, coon watermelons, smoke cigarettes, and still have character, and there are boys with great qualities of leadership who are not presidents of their class, captains of teams or editors of yearbooks. You who are to choose the boys will have to judge of their qualifications."

Willard B. Bellack

First born child of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Bellack was Willard B., born June 25th, 1897, in the house at 256 N. Ludington St., Columbus. He received his early education in the schools of Columbus, graduating from C.H.S. in the class of 1915.

His freshman year of college was at Armour Institute, a school of Engineering at Chicago. His remaining 3 years of college was at the University of Wisconsin from which he graduated June 25th 1919—B.S.M.E.

Joins His Father in Business

He joined the staff of James Manufacturing Co., Fort Atkinson in July 1919 and remained until October, 1920, when he entered his father's business as a partner, remaining until March 1933, when he was offered the position of General Manager of Jersild Knitting Co., Neenah, Wisconsin, manufacturers of sweaters and other outside knit wear, where he remained until December, 1938. He then put in a few months in the office of Columbus Foods Corp., until April 1939 when he took over the Neenah and Appleton Agency of Lincoln National Life Insurance Company which he has carried on ever since.

Marries

He was married at Hampton, Iowa, October 22nd, 1919 to Miss Retha Williams, and from this marriage one child, Bernardine, was born March 31, 1926, at Columbus, this being in the period when Willard was a partner with his father in the store. Retha and Willard were divorced in December 1931. Their home had been in the remodeled A. G. Cook home, which they acquired shortly after they came from Fort Atkinson to Columbus. For several years it has been Legion House.

Willard's daughter, Bernardine is married to Hal Lipsey, and lives in Memphis, Tenn. they have three girls and two boys.

Willards second marriage was to Miss Blanch Hollingsworth, of Beaver Dam on August 20, 1932, and from this marriage there are two sons, Richard John, born February 11, 1939, and Daniel Willard, born March 25th, 1941, both at Neenah, where the family lives at 811 East Forrest Ave.

Willard's older son Richard John is a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, and Daniel Willard is in high school at Neenah.

Many Activities

Willard played in the C.H.S. band, the Second Regiment band at the U. of W. and in the Columbus City Band for several years in the twenties.

While not a member of Olivet church, he was a member of the boys class, the "Knights of Olivet" in Olivet Sunday School while Rev. Robert Hopkins was the minister.

He was the organizer and secretary of the Columbus Poultry and Pet Stock Association, beginning about 1921, which tried to bring about improvement in flocks, egg production, and broilers.

He has contributed numerous articles to Trade Papers and magazines; is the author of one book "Business Life Insurance" and a pamphlet "How to Insure Making Money in the Stock Market."

(continued next week)

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."

By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 356

Thursday, May 22, 1958



A Rotarian

He was a Charter Member of the Columbus Rotary Club when it was organized in May, 1924 and was secretary from July 1924 to July 1927. He has been a member of the Neenah Rotary since 1933 and became Governor of District 208, consisting of the northern half of Wisconsin and all of upper Michigan.

Willard became prominent in Life Insurance circles and received a diploma as "Chartered Life Underwriter in 1949, C.L.U. is comparable to C. P. A." in the field of accounting. For the past few years he has been, and is an instructor of the "Life Underwriters Training Council.

Fraternal Associations

Willard, in Columbus, was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and the Chapter, a higher order in Masonry; also of the Knights of Pythias, which no longer exists here, but was very active at one time for many years.

He was an active member of American Legion in Columbus 1920 to 1933. In Fort Atkinson in 1919, and in Neenah since 1933.

Vocational Activities

Willard was a charter member of the Columbus Business Men's Association, which foreclosed after the much earlier Advancement Association had ceased to function, and a predecessor of our present Chamber of Commerce.

He was President of Wisconsin Clothiers and Furnishers Association, 1926-27; Director West-

ern District Knitted Outerwear Association, 1935-38; President Life Underwriters Assoc. Fox River Valley; and Pres. Wisconsin Assoc. of General Agents and Managers, 1953.

Military Service

Willard enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve in April 1918, called for active duty in October 1918, and relieved of duty in December of the same year after conclusion of hostilities; Rank, Seaman 2nd Class.

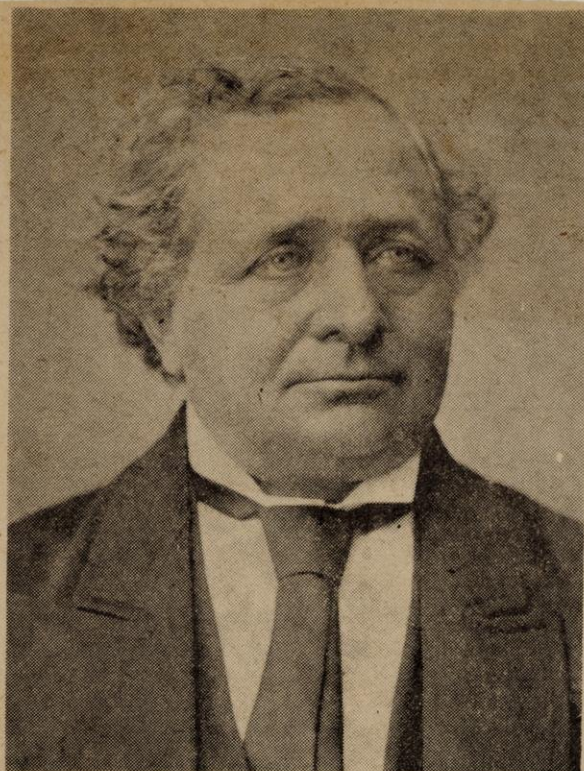
Volunteered and accepted as a civilian in the Ordnance Department of the Army from April 1st, 1942 until November, 1946; during his four and one half years most of the time he was in the Milwaukee office, which enabled him to keep in close touch with his Life Insurance Agency which continued to function during his absence.

At Neenah

At Neenah, he is a member of Elks Lodge, of Neenah-Menasha, he is also a member of the "Neenah Club" of which he served as president in 1951.

He and his family are members of the Methodist church of Neenah, and he is presently Pres. of the board of Trustees of said church.

We take pleasure in showing here, individual picture of four generations of Bellack's, Herman 1825-1907, first generation; Albert M. (Dick) 1860-1935, second generation; Willard B. 1897, third generation; and Richard John, 1939, fourth generation.



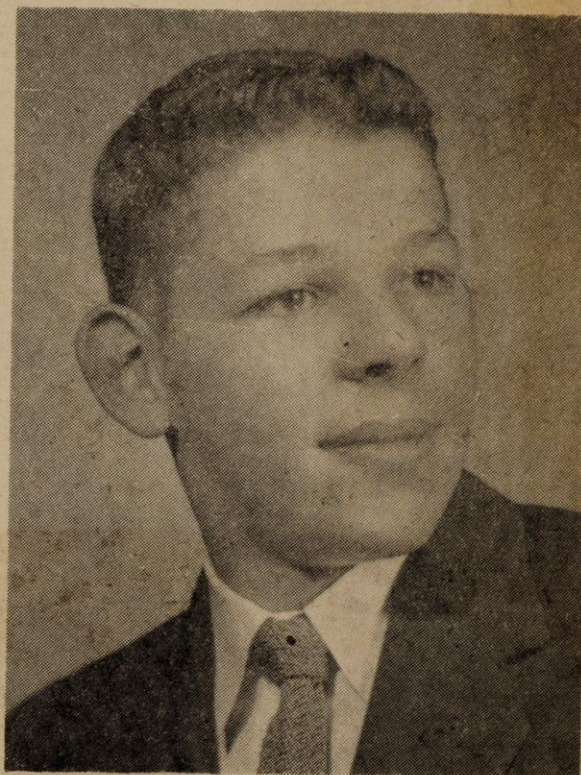
HERMAN BELLACK



ALBERT M. BELLACK



WILLARD B. BELLACK



RICHARD JOHN BELLACK

The "Story of COLUMBUS ..."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 357

Thursday, May 26, 1958



Do any of our readers know who may have the records of the Harvey M. Brown Post of the G.A.R. originally named the Frank A. Haskell Post?

No doubt the Post's books or records are still in existence. If any reader knows anything about the Post records please call the Journal Republican office, 117.

They are needed primarily for research for "The Story of Columbus."

BERNARD F. BELLACK

Bernhard (Bonny) F. Bellack, the second child from the marriage of Herman Bellack and Miss Netty Werchutza was born in Watertown, Wisconsin February 24, 1862. He attended the Watertown public schools and proved to be an exceptionally bright pupil having the necessary credits for graduation from high school at the early age of thirteen years; but on account of his extreme youth, was compelled to wait a year before receiving his diploma.

In 1880 "Bonny" went to Chicago, where his older brother "Dick" had gone about five or six years before, to learn the Hat and Clothing business and had arranged for a position for his younger brother. Shortly thereafter, and "Bonny" had gained some experience, the two brothers opened a mens clothing and furnishing store on Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago.

The venture did not work out as had been expected and after holding on for a few years, it was decided to close the store in Chicago and move their stock of merchandise to some small Wisconsin city.

In September 1883 the two brothers looked into the possibility of Columbus, finding it to their liking they rented the Hayden building, recently vacated by Hayden Bros. who had moved their mercantile activities to Omaha, Nebraska. The building was the first one west of Lueders and Krause's Commission Store, now the Columbus Milk and Ice Cream Store on lower James street, which would make it the building that has long been occupied by Lohr's Tavern. Their advertisement stated it was a "Merchant Tailoring and Men's Clothing Store."

It was found that the profits were not sufficient to support two people, and the local paper of June 20, 1884 said "Mr. B. F. Bellack went to Chicago Sunday morning, having accepted a situation in a wholesale house of that city, of which an elder brother is one of the proprietors."

Apparently "Bonny" was not happy or satisfied in the city, for Nov. 4, 1884 this item appeared in the local paper, "The Cornet Band has recently purchased a fine Silver Cornet to be used by Mr. B. F. Bellack. It is a fine instrument and "Bonny" will play it in an artistic manner."

In mid-summer of 1885 still another item appeared which read "We regret to record a change in the firm of our enterprising Clothiers, Bellack Bros. The junior member leaving shortly to take

charge of the branch store they are about to establish in Fort Atkinson.

"During their sojourn in this city they have won the confidence and respect of the community. Bonny will be greatly missed among his large circle of friends and the Cornet Band loses a first class musician whose place will be hard to fill."

However the Fort Atkinson Store was not successful enough to continue, and after a year or two "Bonny" returned to Columbus fully decided that nothing would again interfere with his long suppressed ambition to become a doctor of medicine.

He may have done some work in pre-medicine with Dr. Robert Earll, then our leading and elderly physician, as we have heard was the case. However in 1887 he matriculated in the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Chicago.



Dr. Bellack as a young man.

Here he also proved to be a brilliant student, standing the highest in his classes, every year. After graduating he spent a year in Chicago as an interne, then came to Columbus and opened an office in 1891.

He soon built up a large general practice, but decided that he would like some post graduate work in the larger clinics of Europe, which would be very helpful to him in his practice. He spent a year in Berlin, Germany and Vienna, Austria after which he returned to resume his practice in Columbus, his office being on second floor of Union Bank Building, now the Telephone Building, according to his professional card in the local newspapers, of that time.

Business Expands

In 1931, wanting to get some sales promotion experience, I went with Whiting-Plover Paper Company, Stevens Point, as Advertising and Sales Promotion Manager, and spent several pleasant years there. During the same depression period, I began writing for trade publications in the paper, printing, and advertising fields, and contributed to many journals—Inland Printer, American Printer, Printed Salesmanship, Printing Industry, Printers Ink, Pulp and Paper Journal, Printing Salesman, etc. I also became active in a publishing company in Chicago which put out "Modern Advertising" and became editorial director of it in 1937; was one of the organizing group which formed "The Wisconsin Paper Group" which handles pool-car shipping for its member mills; and was active in the Direct Mail Advertising Association.

On The Spot

(Parenthetically, and either for your own enjoyment or for publication—I ain't proud) the DMAA was responsible for one of the funniest things which ever happened to me. In my sales promotion work I had to preside and give talks to a lot of small salesmen's meetings, which offered certain difficulties because of a stammer. I discovered, however, that a drink or two solved most of the problem; and once proudly reported to my confress at a DMAA Convention that the following formula was infallible: 1 drink per 15 listeners per $\frac{1}{4}$ hour. As I remember it, the Convention was held in Minneapolis in a blizzard, and the principal speaker for that same evening got snowbound—and I was elected to fill the gap. Obviously my formula would not be successful for 600 people for 45 minutes, but I stretched it dangerously near the breaking point. I gave my talk, enlivened with pieces of 2x4's, nuts, bolts, and lock washers (and entitled "Advertising Lock-washers") and was unable to remember anything about it the next day. However, they had a court reporter taking down the speeches for our magazine, and it wasn't too bad. I dressed it up a little and sold it for \$50 to Printed Salesmanship. However, I also stopped making speeches!

California Here I come — Back

In 1936, after my father's death, and in the hope that if I lived in California I could persuade mother to spend her winters there with me, and summers in Wisconsin with or near Bill, I resigned from Whiting-Plover and went scouting in California. I found, and bought into, a small business making recording equipment — machines for cutting acetate records for radio, rehearsal of actors, etc. It was still too small to take much of my time, so I returned to Wausau and opened a small advertising agency handling paper-mill accounts only, among which was Whiting-Plover. Early in 1937, the president of Whiting-Plover resigned, and asked me if I would go in with him in the purchase of a paper-mill. Consequently, I pushed my Los Angeles business, Radiotone, Incorporated, into the background and spent a few weeks a year there, a day a week in Chicago on "Modern Advertising", another day in Chicago in a distributing company I formed for Radiotone and other products in the field of sound, a couple of days in Wausau in my agency, and the rest of the time in searching for a mill. It was a very busy life for a couple of years, for I spent almost every week end in Columbus with mother, until her death in the spring of 1937.

Thursday, June 5, 1958

Big Time Now

On December 1, 1938, our group took over Fox River Paper Corporation, in Appleton, Wisconsin, where I was successively Vice President for Merchandising, First Vice President and Treasurer, and Executive Vice President. During those years I became a member of the Executive Committee of the "Rag Content Manufacturers Association" (now Cotton Content Manufacturers Association), a director of the Association of Pulp Consumers and the Wisconsin Paper Group, a director of the Appleton Chamber of Commerce, and — most enjoyable as far as I was concerned — a member of the Post-War Planning Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers. With a fully competent group at the Mill, and with prices, wages, and products pretty solidly regulated by the Government after 1941, I spent most of my time on the various Association matters.

In The Army

Still being a bachelor when the War broke out, I began feeling my way into the Service in spite of the usual "essential deferment" granted to executives in the paper and other vital businesses. In the fall of 1942, I was invited to attend the "Civilian Orientation Course" at Fort Leavenworth's Command and General Staff School. It was an interesting experience, the Course being one of General Summerfield's ideas designed to get business men to arrive at an understanding of Army procedures and requirements. Among the class were Phil Wrigley, Roy Larson (president of Time, Inc.), Byron Gray, (president of International Shoe), Sam Kauffman (publisher of the Washington Star), Arnie Zander of Madison (president of the City and County Workers' Union, the name of which I've forgotten), etc.

Too Young and Too Old

I flew to Washington, upon completion of the Course, and almost bulled my way into the job of doing all purchasing for a division of General Hap Arnold's ATC—in fact, I was told I would be processed immediately as a Lieutenant-Colonel, but on the same day the Air Force decreed that no one under 45 over the rank of Captain could be commissioned direct from civil life, and while I didn't care, the job demanded more rank. On the next day the Draft Age was lowered to 38, so I was simultaneously too young and too old.

Eager Beaver Major

In May, however, I was accepted as a Major in the Ground Forces, and sworn in; in July I got my telegram and after 30 days of indoctrination at Fort Custer, was sent to the School of Military Government at Charlottesville, Va., until I sailed for England on New Year's Eve, 1943. At Fort Custer our group of 40 received the official denomination of "Eager Beavers" — and I guess we earned it. All of us were either over-age or good physically only for limited service, and the only way we could be sure of over-seas duty was by signing up for Military Government, where both types of disqualifications were overlooked. We had an interesting group in the Eager Beavers — Ernie Gross, later U. S. Representative to the League of Nations; Charlie Reed, just resigned Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court; Jack Bennett, defeated candidate for Governor of New York, and later (perhaps still Vice Mayor of New York; Bob Levy, now Chairman of the Board of Standard Gas & Electric Company and the Pennsylvania Company; Roger Woolcott, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and for 20 years an advisor to the Chinese Government, etc.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 359

Thursday, June 12, 1958



34 MONTHS IN EUROPE

During my 34 months in Europe I started with four months in the Civil Affairs Center at Shrivenham, in Wilshire County, serving on the Training Staff. Then London, where I was a part of the Supreme Commander's Mission to Denmark, serving consecutively as Trade & Industry Officer, Deputy Chief for Economics, Deputy Chief for Supply and Economics, and Chief of Supply and Economics. We arrived in London the day of the last German air-raid, and were there throughout the buzz-bombs and A-2's, both of which were unpleasant. On the pleasant side was the fact that three of us had a house and housekeeper, that the theatres ran (all through the bombing) and that I discovered Dog Races and, with most Saturday afternoons off, spent a good deal of time (and money!) at Wembley Stadium, watching the Whippets.

GERMAN STAFF ON TOP

Upon the German surrender, we went into Copenhagen by air. For the first week, the German Staff occupied the two top floors of the Angleterre Hotel, and a part of our Staff the lower floors. This seemed peculiar at the time, but was sensible from General Dewing's point of view, as he could call on them for information or to give them instructions without waiting for them to cross town to report to him.

The six months in Copenhagen were by far the pleasantest time I had in the Army. We had ample work, but week ends (starting Saturday noon) to ourselves. I made some good friends among the Danes, and liked all of them. Some of them I have seen in the States since the War.

FRANKFORT - AM - MAIN

In October, 1945, we "shut up shop" in Copenhagen, now that the Joint Chiefs of Staff no longer controlled all raw materials, shipping, etc., and I was transferred to Frankfurt-am-Main, where USFET (the top headquarters for the continent of Europe) occupied the tremendous I. G. Farben Building. For about five months I was Deputy Chief, G-5 Plans; then was transferred to the Displaced Persons Branch as Executive Officer and Deputy Chief. The eight months in that job were strenuous, to say the least! Between Dave Niles and Mrs. Roosevelt worrying their heads off about displaced persons, "Little Flower" LeGuardia heading UNRRA, which furnished operating personnel for the Displaced Persons Camps which the Army was responsible for, the Russians, who approved of nothing we did, and DP's of all kinds and descriptions who either disapproved of us as heartily as the Russians, or liked the life so well they had no intention of ever going back to work, it was a really active place.

Supposedly, the Branch had 14 officers and 14 enlisted men (we were not allowed to use German personnel because the work being so "sensitive"), but most of the time we had 6 or less of each, and it was 7 days a week from 8:00 to late evening or early morning, for months. I developed a fine case of hyper-tension and radiculitis, which I promptly diagnosed as angina pectoris—luckily, wrongly. At any rate, I lived through it, largely due to a WAC Captain who was assigned to me as Administrative Assistant, and who was so efficient that I've kept her ever since—as my wife. We were married in April of 1947, shortly after her return to the States; I had beaten her home by a few weeks, getting back early in November of 1946.

RELAXATION

I wasn't in top condition either physically or psychologically when I returned, so joined three other men on a 38-foot racing cutter, on which we went to Florida for the racing season. We managed to win the Lipton Trophy in the first race, and got a little big for our britches, for we signed up for the Miami-Nassau Race and started in it despite the worst weather it had ever been held in. At the end of 36 hours we were far ahead (on corrected time) of our opposition; at the end of 37 hours we had lost our mast and, the motor having decided to be balky, were drifting quite helplessly on the Bahama Banks. This all happened at night; the next day we rigged a jury-mast and a piece of storm sail which gave us some control until we got the motor started and chugged into Cat Cay.

After I dried out I went out to buy a boat of

my own, and found a beautiful 45-foot cruising on April the 26th, and after a few days in New ketch which I grabbed. Jan and I were married York (we were married in Washington, from the house of friends) during which she managed to become separated from the WAC, flew back to Miami and spent the next several months cruising the East Coast as far North as Nantucket. We were on our way South in September, to go to Bermuda, then to the Virgin Islands, and finally down the Windward Islands to Trinidad and Venezuela when I had an accident which fractured and dislocated my right shoulder so that I ended up in a concrete brassiere from neck to waist. It being impossible to sail a boat of that size with the probable partial use of one arm for several months, we sold it and came to California after a few weeks in Wisconsin.



Col. Richard Bellack

HOME IN SAN FRANCISCO AREA

I had sold my interest in Fox River Paper Corporation when I went overseas, and so was footloose, and we elected the San Francisco area as the place we wanted to live; bought a house and a couple of acres in Orinda, just over the Berkeley Hills from San Francisco Bay, a car, clothes, furniture, and all of the other impedimenta which weren't practical on a small yacht, and settled down. I bought an electrical manufacturing business in San Francisco (Butte Electric & Manufacturing Corporation) which made Vault Alarms for banks and Traffic Recorders for State and Federal Highway use. Unfortunately, the widow from whom I bought it had been deceived as to assets and so had deceived me, and while she made good on the price after three months of auditing, the delay was very costly to me in new business, and I liquidated the business during the summer of 1948.

CRAZY ABOUT POST CARDS

In the meantime I had met Mike Roberts, a color photographer who had gone into the Kodachrome type Postcard business when he was considered to be insane in believing the public would pay a nickle for a postcard. I was about as crazy as he was, and joined with him in the formation of "Mike Roberts Color Production," located in Berkeley, California. For nearly nine years my job as Vice President, Treasurer and General Manager (with a little janitor work thrown in at times) was the most fascinating and most difficult I ever attempted. We had to pioneer almost everything—manufacturing procedures, merchandising, pricing policies, distribution policies, etc., and still take care of the constant expansion we continued to make. By 1956, we were doing business in almost every State, in Canada, and in 15 foreign countries; we had converted from the letterpress process to the offset process at a cost of almost \$150,000; our competition had gon up from no one to 9 fairly substantial or very substantial firms; and I was tired!

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



F. A. STARE
By

INSTALLMENT NO. 371

July 3, 1958



He was united in marriage with Miss Lestrina Rockwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Rockwell in 1894. They had no children. They lived in the Rockwell house on Lewis street (now the home of Mrs. Roshara Frederick, 141 N. Lewis st.) Mrs. Bellack died in March, 1906.

In 1907, having long felt the need for a hospital in Columbus, with the financial assistance of a number of Columbus citizens, and in particular of Mrs. Catherine Chadborn (grandmother of Reuben Chadborn and Catherine Chadborn Mead) Dr. Bellack and Dr. Byron Meacher of Portage organized, built and operated Columbus hospital for several years, until it was acquired by the Sisters of the Divine Savior, which order remodeled and enlarged it at a later date, into what is now St. Mary's, which when the present wing, now under construction, is complete will be one of the most modern community hospitals in the state, in city's of our size.



The Hospital

The original hospital with wide front porch, at left. The nurses home at the right was the beautiful Colonial home of Gov. James T. Lewis, built in 1856 — which was torn down when present nurses home was built.

He never lost interest in the hospital and was very helpful to the Sisters in the re-modeling, re-building and equipment of the hospital.

In November 1907 he was married to Miss Marie Griswold of this city, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Griswold whose lovely home was the present Zeidler and Alberts funeral home.

Dr. Bellack practiced his profession in Columbus without interruption from 1891 until 1934 the year of his death, except for the one year he did post graduate work in Europe. The last few years of his life with failing health he did only office and hospital practice not being physically able to make country or home calls and toward the last, not even hospital calls.

In his early practice there were times when the roads were impassable for horse and buggy. At such times for days or weeks at a time "horseback" was the only possible way doctors could make their calls.

Carrying medical supplies and other needed equipment in saddle bags and sometimes from dawn to dark in the saddle, took toll from the life of many a doctor. No doubt the hardships incurred while riding the circuit shortened the life of doctors of the last decade of the 19th century.

His office for a number of years was in an office building built by Mr. George Griswold, lawyer, who was the first of four brothers to locate here. The building stood about opposite from the monument in what is now the lawn in front of the library building.

When the library was about to be built, the office was moved to the southwest corner of the same block, it being the home of the Richard Wohlfeil's, 252 West Harrison street, for many years past and earlier of Mr. John Pick, then of Mr. Frank Nelson.

In his younger life, Dr. Bellack was an accomplished musician, being proficient on practically all instruments in the brass bands of his day, and woodwind instruments such as flute and clarinet.

He was a member of several organized groups, the Debating society, Masonic Lodge, Knights of Pythias, Wisconsin Medical Society and no doubt other connections unknown to the writer.

He had few business connections, at least since the turn of the century, but was for a period of five or six years, secretary of Columbus Canning Company, beginning in 1924.

Dr. and Mrs. Bellack became parents of one daughter, Mary, who became Mrs. William Ferguson who for several years has lived in Chicago. She recently built a lovely home on Charles street, in this city.

Dr. and Mrs. Bellack had an ideal home life and the comfort and care of his wife, his child and Mrs. Griswold, mother of his wife, was the principal object of his life.



Dr. Bellack late in life.

He died November 22, 1934 at his home which he seldom left the last few months of his life.

During the last summer of his life Dr. Bellack and family spent several weeks of relaxation at their summer home on Lake Catharine near Hazelhurst, Wisconsin in the hope that he would be more comfortable by escaping the extreme heat sometimes experienced here.

His funeral services were held at the family home, and were conducted by his friend, Rev. L. C. Partch, and interment was at Hillside Cemetery, Columbus.

His daughter, Mrs. Fergus, the only Bellack left here, is a part time resident, as she spends frequent weekends here and her summer vacations in her lovely home here, mentioned above.

Do any of our readers know who may have the records of the Harvey M. Brown Post of the G.A.R. originally named the Frank A. Haskell Post?

No doubt the Post's books or records are still in existence. If any reader knows anything about the Post records please call the Journal Republican office, 117.

They are needed primarily for research for "The Story of Columbus."

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 359

Thursday, July 10, 1958



GUY V. DERING

Although he died twenty five years ago, as this is written, there are still hundreds of citizens of Columbus and surrounding area who remember him well and favorably, for he was a prominent citizen and business man for many years.

Likewise he had a host of friends from many parts of the United States, because of his prominence in the Amateur Trapshooting World.

With this broad introduction, we go back to his father as the beginning point of this sketch.

OSCAR M. DERING

Oscar M. Dering was the oldest of a family of four boys and one girl. He was born in Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pa., December 12, 1827.

His parents were Charles and Maria M. Dering. In the spring of 1849, Charles Dering sr. left Pennsylvania with his family and journeyed to the new state of Wisconsin and located in New Diggings, one of the numerous mining settlements in the lead and zinc hillside mining region in the south-western part of the state. We have no information as to what Mr. Charles Dering's business, profession or occupation may have been.

Apparently the father and the family remained in New Diggings until 1863 in the fall of which year the family moved to Columbus.

Oscar M. Dering had learned the trade of moulder, in a Pa. foundry, and it may have been a search for foundry work that caused him to leave New Diggings, for he eventually turned up in Milwaukee, found work to his liking and on August 7, 1851 was married to Miss Harriet Logan, which is the extent of our information about his wife.

Three children were born to them, Anna who became Mrs. Barry, who died in Syracuse, New York in 1909.

A son George died in infancy. The third was Ella.

After living in Milwaukee for several years, working at his trade as a moulder, he moved back to the southwestern part of the state to Shullsberg, where he was undersheriff for two years.

ARMY SERVICE

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Oscar Dering then 34 years of age was appointed Provost Marshall for the southwestern district of Wisconsin, a position of considerable importance. In 1865 the closing year of the War, when additional new regiments were being organized rapidly, there was great need for men with some military ex-

perience to become officers. Therefore Mr. Dering enlisted in the 50th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in which he was designated as captain of Co. C.

In the meantime Mr. Charles L. Dering, a younger brother had located in Columbus, where he began the practice of law, and was also village clerk in 1864. And another brother P. F. Dering had located in Darlington, Wisconsin, which is the only fact about him that we have been able to find.

HIS FAMILY MOVED TO COLUMBUS

Whatever may have been the motivating reason, Oscar Dering's family moved from Shullsberg to Columbus while he was in the army. He rejoined his family in Columbus when he received his discharge.

It is not definitely known what house they lived in, but we have heard that it was on East James Street, a little west of its junction with Manning Street and on the south side of the street. We have heard that it is the house later known as the Udey house.

Shortly after he had returned to civil life in Columbus his wife died.

VILLAGE MARSHALL

He was appointed to be village Marshall in 1870, and when Columbus received its charter as a city in 1874, he was elected city marshall serving in 1874 and 1875 and again until failing health compelled his retirement.

In 1870, some years after his wife had passed away he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Vance, a milliner, of this city, whose shop was in the store now operated by Mrs. Alice Topp.

To this union one son Guy Varnum Dering was born who was destined to become one of the city's prominent businessman and leading citizen.

HIS GUN

Captain Dering, as long as he was physically able, greatly enjoyed hunting. Hanging on the back wall of Wood & Alff's office and store, which by many is still called Derings, there is a double barreled sixteen gauge muzzel loading shotgun of English make that was hung there some years before "Cap's" death. He told Gust Alff, Ervin's father who operated the produce store for Guy Dering for many years, that that old gun had killed more quail, partridge and prairie chickens, over the years when he was active, than could be put into the front room of the store where it still hangs.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT 360

Thursday, June 19, 1958



SANTA'S VILLAGE

In the meantime, I had contacted and sold direct a company operating "Santa's Village" near Lake Arrowhead, California, who were forming a new company to open a similar place near Santa Cruz. In my work with Roberts, I had visited many children's amusement parks who were our customers, and felt the Lake Arrowhead project, and any others like it, would be a decided success; the men who headed it were looking for additional manpower who knew something about the field; and it looked to me like a good proposition. I talked it over with Mike Roberts, and he arranged a group to buy my stock in the old company, leaving me free to join the Santa's Village group without entanglements. Consequently we came to an arrangement, and after five months of touring the United States with Jan and our eight year-old daughter Mimi (Mary Elizabeth, to be formal) I came to Santa Cruz to take over from the general contractor, finish up the park, and operate it. With 33 acres, 9 major buildings and 4 minor ones, 24 reindeer, 40 to 60 baby goats and lambs, 20 burros, peacocks, bantams, rabbits, ducks, geese and even a raccoon, I find it a busy life but an interesting and relaxing one. We opened on May 30th of this year, and from the rate we are going, should welcome our millionth visitor within 15 months from that date.

Our organization (I'm a vice president, natch-erly) expects to spread into other areas and I am afraid that I'll end up in a headquarters job, rather than this one which I agreed to take over for experience; but every inclination is to stay here until retirement rolls around.

A FEW MORE DETAILS

Military record: Separated from the Service as a Colonel, with the Bronze Star (Administrative), Order of the British Empire (Officer Grade), Knight of Dannebrog (Danish), Army Commendation Ribbon (refused because I felt it should

go to younger personnel and not to the jaded oldster I felt like at the time), Certificate of Merit, signed by Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Clubs and Organizations: Have belonged to many, but am active in none. Elks, Moose, various Country Clubs over the years, Lake Shore Club and Union League Club, both of Chicago.

Wife's maiden name: Jeanne Elizabeth Janikula, of Enumclaw, Washington.

Daughter: born January 3, 1949. Mary Elizabeth.

Married: Catholic Chaplain at Walter Reed Hospital (however, I am not a convert, but still remain a sort of Congregationalist.)

Present address: same as Santa's Village — 6348 Los Gratos Highway, Santa Cruz, California. We live in the old ranch-house (this used to be a polo-pony breeding farm) behind the Village, where we have 4 bedrooms, 4 baths, a swimming-pool, and panelled walls with cracks so wide that lizards come and go through them. And reindeer going past the patio each evening at the cocktail hour — a decided shock to some over-bibulous friends!

One other "distinction" — I believe the last official act of General Eisenhower as Commander of U. S. Forces was to sign a letter I wrote for him. It was to Ambassador Steinhardt in Czechoslovakia, and was a "Dear Larry" letter which ran two full pages and explained some of the Displaced Persons difficulties. There wasn't an enlisted man in our branch who could type, so I had to type it too. No erasures, no hyphenations, and various other taboos on letters to be signed by the boss, and after spending two days drafting the letter and getting it approved by seven or eight generals, I spent one entire day typing it. My own Chief, General Stanley Mickelsen, rushed it up to Ike's office — Ike was putting on his cap to leave the office and fly to the States for consultation . . . actually, to become Chief of Staff. He turned back and signed the letter without reading it. Thus did I secure immortality — of a sort!

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . . "



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 360

Thursday, July 17, 1958



HIS DAUGHTER ELLA

Mr. Derings third child by his first wife was Ella, who grew up to become the wife of Matt Carpenter and lived in Milwaukee. The couple had a daughter, Yula, who was married to Mr. Virium, first name not presently found. The couple had a daughter they named Arloene Dering Virium. This family lived in Racine, but when their baby was to be christened she was brought to Columbus to be christened in St. Paul's Episcopal church of which the Dering family were members. For her christening she was dressed in a long white dress with polka dots prominent, which was the same dress her maternal great grandfather, Capt. Oscar M. Dering wore at his christening. It was found that in the many years the dress had been packed away the polka dots had all dissappeared, leaving small round holes where the dots had been, but the dress was used pust the same. This was in the spring of 1905, exact date not recalled.



Arloene Dering Virium being christened in long dress in which her great grandfather, Capt. Oscar M. Dering, was christened.

After the death of her first husband, Ella, Mrs. Campbell, married John Zeininger, a conductor on the Chicago and Northwestern railway, living in Milwaukee. When the time for his retirement came, Mr. and Mrs. Zeininger came to Columbus to live, making their home with her half brother Guy. Ella died October 13, 1922 and her husband July 16, 1926.

Mrs. Dering was one of the early business women of Columbus, having joined an older sister Miss E. Vance in opening a millinery store here in 1858.

A search of the newspapers discloses the following advertisement dated December 15, 1858: New Millinery and Dress making Establishment. Miss Vance has opened business in the rooms formerly occupied by Mrs. Hoadely, over G. T. Dodges store, (which stood where Zeidler-Alberts Furniture store now is), is now ready to do work in the line of millinery, dressmaking, and plain sewing. She intends also to keep on hand for sale an assortment of Millinery goods, such as Bonnetts, Trimming, etc.

MISS E. VANCE

Sarah J. Vance was married to Mr. Oscar M. Dering in September 1870. To them was born one son Guy Varnum Dering, September 28, 1871. She continued to conduct a millinery store until 1913.

The family, according to hearsay, lived on lower East James Street for a number of years but later lived above the store until her son built a beautiful new home at 251 West James Street, (now the home of Dr. Sheard) in 1912 which they occupied late in 1913.



Mrs. O. M. Dering, Episcopal Church in rear.

The picture shown here was doubtless taken twenty years or more before her death, on June 18, 1922, at the age of 78 years, 9 months and 3 days. The survivors were a son George in Idaho, from her earlier marriage, her son Guy Varnum Dering, and one sister, Mrs. Mary Bolton, then a resident here. Rev. Stuart of Nashota Mission House near Oconomowoc, conducted the funeral.

Her son George became George Vance, after his mother's separation and when he had finished school, went to Idaho. However during his mother's last illness, George Vance came to Columbus where he lived for several weeks, in the home of his half brother Guy V. Dering, return to Idaho shortly after his mother's funeral.

CHARLES L. DERING

From Butterfields history of Columbia County published in 1880, we learn that Charles, a younger brother of Oscar, was born in Sunbury, Northumberland County, Pa., December 3, 1836 and was about thirteen, when his parents moved to what is now LaFayette County, Wisconsin, in the spring of 1849, locating at New Diggings, an appropriate name for a mining town in the region of lead and zinc mining. This was the earliest settled and most populous section of the territory, aside from Fort Howard, Green Bay and Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chein.

Charles Dering finished his elementary schooling in neighborhood schools, and took higher education at Platteville Academy from which he graduated in 1855. He then took another year of work at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y. but on account of ill health he was unable to complete his course.

He had taught school a few terms before entering college, and one term afterward. He then commenced the study of law, in the office of a lawyer in Shullsberg, in 1858, and was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1859. His mother, Mrs. Maria Dering died in Schullsberg, April 24, 1859.

HE ENLISTS

In April 1861 Charles enlisted at Shullsberg as a private in Co. I, 3rd Wisconsin Voluntary Infantry. He was appointed as Color Sergeant, and then became Sergeant Major, his next promotion was to 2nd Lieutenant of Co. I his original company, still later he became 1st Lieutenant and was assigned to Co. B of the same regiment, and was mustered out as such July 24, 1863.

Thursday, July 24, 1958

He was in all the campaigns and battles in which his regiment participated, until he was severely wounded in the battle of Cedar Mountain, August 9, 1862.

Returning to private life in 1863 he went back to Shullsberg, and the family at that time consisting of his father and his sister Anna then moved to Columbus. Here he practiced his profession in the office of Gerry W. Hazleton for twelve years. In 1875 the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Dering and Mr. Smith bought the abstract business of Alverson and Yule in Portage. However Charles Dering continued to reside and practiced law in Columbus for a number of years.

He sold the abstract business in 1879, continuing examinations of abstracts, and took on an insurance business together with his legal work.

He was clerk of the village board continuously from 1864 until Columbus went under a City Charter in 1874, serving one year as City Clerk. He was U. S. Assistant Assessor of Internal Revenue 1864 to 1866. He was a member of the county board, as supervisor from the 2nd ward, and again after moving into the 3rd ward served another term.

He was a member of the village school board in Columbus and after the city charter, was a member of the board of Education for three years. He was elected to the state Senate in the fall of 1878.

Mr. Dering was married on October 7, 1874 to Miss Ada Maxwell at Waterford, Erie County, Pa. She was born in Chenango Co., New York. As of 1880 the couple were parents of two children, Jesse and Irma, and had a son named Maxwell later.

Sometime after 1880 Mr. Dering moved to Portage where he continued the practice of law and other activities.

ANNA MARIE DERING

Anna Marie Dering, third child and only daughter of Charles sr. and Maria M. Dering, was born in Sunbury, Pa., February 10, 1832 and died in Columbus, Wisconsin December 21, 1885. She was a girl of seventeen when her parents came to Wisconsin, locating in New Diggings in 1849. Ten years later her mother died. Anna kept house for her brother, Charles and her father Charles sr.

In 1863 the father, son Charles and daughter moved to Columbus, the probable reason being the opportunity of Charles to enter the law office of Gerry W. Hazleton here. In 1875 Charles Dering sr. accompanied by his daughter Anna made a trip to Texas, to visit one of his sons who had located there. It was while on this visit that Mr. Dering died, and was buried there. Anna remained a few months, returning to Columbus, living here until her death as above noted, at the age of 54 years, 10 months and 22 days. She was buried at Hillside cemetery, Columbus.

GUY V. DERING

Guy Varnum Dering, only child of Capt. O. M. Dering and Sarah Vance Dering was born in Columbus September 28, 1871.

He was educated in the schools of Columbus, and then entered St. John's Military Academy at Delafield, Wisconsin where he graduated with honors, and was asked to stay on as Commandant of Cadets, which he did for a number of years. In 1893 he met with a serious hunting accident. It is not known to the writer whether he went back to his post at St. John's after his complete recovery, or whether he terminated his instructorship at that time.

Had you been a reader of the Columbus Democrat issue of Friday, October 27, 1893 the following is what you would have read.

"Serious Gun Shot Wounds"

Our usually quiet neighborhood was thrown into a state of excitement and anxiety last Monday by the tidings flashed over the telephone wire shortly before noon, that Guy V. Dering had been shot while out hunting on Crooked Lake, about 5 miles southeast of Oconomowoc.

The extent of his injuries were not stated nor ascertained until later in the day when Ruggles S. Rockweill who accompanied Mrs. O. M. Dering to Oconomowoc on the 1:09 p.m. train, wired the particulars.

It appears that Guy in company with Cadets Koening of Milwaukee and Wheeler of La Crosse had been out with their guns for game and sport. They had a boat with them which they were about to row across the lake when the accident occurred.

Guy was in the act of getting into the boat, holding his gun firmly by the barrels near the muzzle, with his right hand, when he lost his balance and in regaining it he accidentally struck the trigger of the gun against the bow of the boat with such force as to break the "dog" which held them at the supposed safety point (half cocked.) One of the barrels was discharged, the entire contents passing through the fleshy portion of the left arm, producing two ragged and ugly wounds.

Guy's companions proved clear headed and heroic in the sad emergency so unexpectedly created.

With silk handkerchiefs they plugged the wounds and binding up the arm as best they could to check the hemorrhage, started across the lake in the boat to a point nearest Oconomowoc.

On landing they hailed a farmer plowing near by and requested him to take them to Oconomowoc where a physician's services could be obtained. He was obstinate and refused saying he had no time. The promise of a generous fee did not stir him. It was a desperate situation and no time for a parley, silently argued young Koening and lifting his gun toward his shoulder he commanded the farmer to comply with their request at the peril of being shot if he refused.

The team was then quickly hitched to a buggy and the party proceeded with all convenient haste to Dr. Hadley's office, where the wounds were dressed after examination.

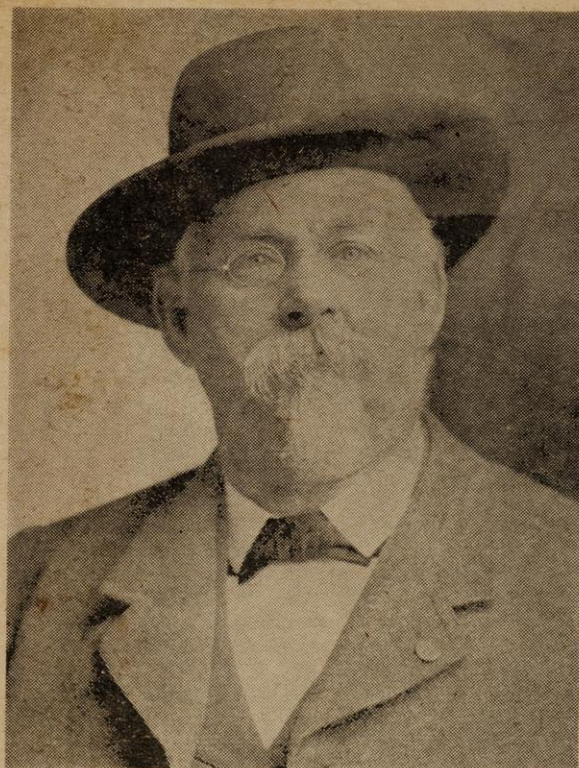
Although greatly weakened by the excessive hemorrhage Guy felt equal to the journey home and so was brought here on the evening train.

Since then he has been doing nicely and it is believed will recover from the terrible experience without the loss of his arm. Dr. Bellack's latest report concerning him is very encouraging.

Deep sadness was occasioned both here and at Delafield where Guy is commandant of the military academy by the deplorable accident, for he is looked upon as the institutions right arm."

The paper a week later had a brief article to the effect that the Academy were so concerned that Columbus might not have the best possible medicine and surgical service available, that they requested the attending physician, Dr. B. F. Bellack to permit the Academy to send a well known specialist to Columbus to confer with Dr. Bellack, who was, of course, perfectly willing for a consultation.

The surgeon came and after conferring with the attending physician and examining the patient, was profuse in his praise of Dr. Bellack's skill, and reported back to the Academy that Guy was in excellent hands and they need have no fear of the outcome.



O. M. Dering, father of Guy V. Dering
Guy. V. Dering

NATIONAL SHOOTS

In all probability, Guy grew up with guns and dogs. We cannot establish the date that he became interested and expert in trap shooting, but the records show that in 1910 he won the championship in the amateur clay pigeon shoot with a handicap of 18 yards (back of the shooting line) with 189 broke out of 200 shot, the highest score up to that time.

In 1927, with a 16 yard handicap he won again, this time with a score of 200 straight.

In 1915 he won the "double" with 91 broke out of 100 shot at. The above were all National Shoots.

STATE CHAMPION

In 1915 he won the state championship breaking 98 out of 100. In 1920 he won again breaking 293 out of 300 and in 1931 only a year before he died, he won by breaking 200 straight.

Incidentally his proteges, Ed Martin, E. H. Alff and John Kurth and perhaps others, all Columbus boys, have all done well at trap shooting. Ervin Alff won the state championship in 1928 breaking 199 out of 200; sorry we do not have the score of others.

MORE DETAILS

We have some additional facts from his obituary in Columbus Democrat of June 15, 1932 from which we quote —

"His trapshooting accomplishments were many, being president, the Wisconsin State Association, and was president of the National Amateur Trapshooting Association from 1926 to 1932, being president at the time of his death.

"He won his first state championship in 1901 with a score of 200 straight. Between 1901 and 1931 he won the state championship more often than any other man up to that time. He won the championship of the United States in 1910 and again in 1927 with a perfect score of 200 straight.

"During the Grand American Handicap held in Dayton, Ohio in 1927 he made a run of 455



Guy V. Dering at National Shoot

without a miss; this was a world's record at that time. The A.T.A. and the Wisconsin Trapshooters Assn. has lost a great president, an honest sportsman and a real friend."

HIS BUSINESS

It is not presently known what year Guy may have started in business, nor whether it was for himself right from the start or whether he had gained some experience working for someone else before he began for himself.

When the writer first came to Columbus in January, 1902, it was to run a very small canning factory, so small in fact that Guy was assistant secretary (to A. M. Bellack, secretary) and kept the canning company books on a part time basis, doing the work at his office in one end of his coal sheds that still stand next to the railroad tracks east of Ludington street.

How long he had been established in the coal business we do not know. Some few years later he bought the grain and feed business of Churchill and Sexton. Mr. Sexton died in 1908 and Mr. Churchill in 1910. Our surmise is that the business may have been sold after Mr. Sexton's death.

Guy Dering bought the produce business that had formerly been owned by Mr. Wilke, which he had carried on in the C. Leitsch Block, corner of Ludington and Mill Streets for many years and put Mr. Gustave Alff in charge.

According to Columbus Democrat of April 6, 1906, this business changed hands shortly before or at least early in April.

Some years later the fuel business was sold to a competitor and Mr. Dering's business was confined to the elevator and grain business where M & S Feed Co. now is, 256 Church Street, and the Produce Store now operated by Alff and Wood, still often referred to as Derings.

Guy was never married although around the turn of the century, who knows how many of our fair maidens may have secretly "set her cap" for him.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 363

Thursday, August 14, 1958



He had always been interested in boys, and several young men of this city had been helped by him, to acquire a higher education. He told the writer many years ago that he, as a former instructor and always thereafter, as a good friend of the St. John's Military Academy, had at his disposal a scholarship he could bestow on any worthy boy, especially if he happened to be a good all around athlete, with a high school education, by means of which, considerable aid could be extended to such if he cared to enter St. John's.

We do not imagine the scholarship took care of all the expense, but it was surely a big lift. After checking with others, we are able to name the following who were influenced by Guy Dering to enter St. John's. Ed and Guy Martin, Oscar and George Gruhn, Willard Owen and Otto Mueller. There may have been others.



Guy as Businessman

We show here a picture of Guy, taken by Guttenstein's of Milwaukee a few years before his death.

Guy was a member of all the Masonic Orders in Columbus, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodman, and the Rotary Club.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church, and the earlier 1492 club. He was a director of the Farmers and Merchants Union Bank at the time of his death.

He was a dominant factor in the organization and maintenance of the Ne-pe-noc Club, a shooting club on Lake Puckaway, Wisconsin, a club whose membership included not only local members, but many from afar.

He took a great deal of interest in Ed Martin, who, it was generally thought, correctly, would become the beneficiary of any estate that Guy might leave. Ed became a member of the household, after the death of Guy's mother.

Miss Amelia Ibisch began working for Mrs. O. M. Dering in May 1904, and remained a faithful member of the family until August 1933, having stayed on to keep house until Ed Martin became married to Miss Helen Blanchard.

We are greatly indebted to Miss Ibisch for some of the details given herein, and for the photographs loaned by her.

Guy passed away June 8, 1932 at the age of 60 years, 8 months and 10 days after a lingering illness, having been ill for seventeen weeks.

The Oppelt Case

When the writer first came to Columbus in January, 1902, one of the principle subjects of conversation was gossip concerning the case of the "mystery man" named Edward C. Oppelt, a recluse, a miser, a foreigner, generally referred

to as "the Russian" who had been the owner of a small store, in a brick building that stood very close to the railroad tracks on the west side of Ludington street, and north of the railroad about where the driveway to Hiney's gasoline tanks are located, between the tracks and the Yuds 66 filling station.

He had died in January, 1900 and apparently had no friends, relatives or even close acquaintances. He was, according to all reports, a bit queer, suspicious, and kept close to his shop and living quarters in the same building. He had become somewhat friendly to Jake Dering, from whose house he was buried.

He was reputed to be wealthy, and had often been the victim of attempted robbery. The court had appointed an administrator of the estate, but up to the time referred to, the case was still wide open.

Such was the situation, as the writer recalls it, as of 1902. The writer left Columbus after one year, but five years later, in December, 1907, came back to Columbus to make his home and raise his family, and found that the community was again or still talking about the Oppelt case, as much had happened in the intervening years and a decision had been made by County Judge Stroud of Portage in 1906.

Since the writer has been doing extensive research for the articles appearing in weekly installments in the Journal-Republican under the "Story of Columbus," he has run across several items appearing in various issues of the paper, pertaining to the Oppelt case and so has decided to write it up as it is one of the most interesting stories we have run across.

The earliest item was from the Columbus Democrat of November 19, 1868. Burglary — On Monday evening last, about nine o'clock, the brick store adjoining the railroad on Ludington street was entered by two burglars, and the proprietor, an inoffensive Russian named Oppelt, was struck a severe blow on the head which cut an ugly gash.

He made a vigorous outcry, and the villains decamped without booty. The victim fled and on his return with aid, a hat, a ball club, a fence picket stained with blood, and a revolver were found lying upon the floor.

It is reputed that this man has considerable wealth concealed about his premises, to which fact that he lives a retired life and is a secluded bachelor was well known and the burglars undoubtedly were there in the hope of plunder.

Two young men living in this village were arrested upon suspicion; their examination consumed the entire of yesterday until 8 o'clock p.m. before Squire Hoppin.

Their names are (deleted since families of similar names are still in the neighborhood as of 1958). In default of \$500 bail they were sent to Portage this forenoon, to await trial.

We have examined papers up to April 22, 1869. Could find nothing more about above case.

Information Please

Our sources of information besides the newspapers have been several citizens who have been interviewed from some of whom we have picked up details that throw some light on Mr. Oppelt, from people who knew him.

But first we will give a few news items with dates as they appeared in the Columbus Democrat right after his death.

From the issue of Jan. 10, 1900 — "Last Friday, the news was rapidly circulated that Edward Oppelt, better known as the "Russian" had passed away. For about thirty five years (incorrect) past he has been conducting a small grocery store on Ludington street just north of the railroad tracks, where he has been living all alone, never associating with anyone except when necessary.

He is supposed to be Russian, but it is not actually known what his nationality was. He was a very peculiar character, and on account of his lack of association, the history of his life was a mystery to most people.

The funeral services took place at the residence of Jacob Dering, Rev. A. C. Berg of the German Methodist church officiating.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 364

Thursday, August 21, 1958



OLD RELICS

Jan. 17, 1900 — Among the many old relics discovered at the late "Russian's" place of abode (back room of the little store) are a number of old style election ballots dating back from Civil War times.

Judging from the names on the ballots which he had stored away, we would consider him a democrat. The motto "The Union is one Condition of Peace and we ask no more," is at the head of the ticket and names of General McClellan for president and Pendleton for vice president. On another ticket we find the name of our venerable townsman, for Governor, James T. Lewis.

There is no pecuniary value attached to these tickets, but they bring back to those that lived through the great conflict, many reminiscences of days long passed into eternity."

WHITNEY APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR

Since there were no relatives in Wisconsin, so far as known, the County Judge, W. S. Stroud appointed Alonza H. Whitney of Columbus as administrator. The administrator appointed Geo. Stephens as his attorney.

It was a formidable task to search for and investigate claimants, all of whom, if there were any, living in Europe.

Attorney Wm. C. Leitsch, who was also mayor, went to Chicago, after some preliminary correspondence, to meet with Baron Schlippenbach, Imperial Russian Consul at Chicago, to discuss the matter of trying to locate possible heirs. The Consul appointed Mayor Leitsch to represent the foreign heirs "ad litem" if any could be found.

The newspaper of March 14, 1900 said "as no heirs of the late Edward C. Oppelt have yet been found, the estate will likely be turned over to the State of Wisconsin.

A. H. Whitney has been appointed Administrator under a bond of \$35,000. Last Friday while cleaning up the building \$95.00 more was found hidden under the stove zinc."

As it turned out, claimants were soon heard from, in increasing numbers, many of them being fraudulent. Several years passed, in which careful research through the newspaper failed to disclose any items referring to the Oppelt case, until mid-summer of 1906.

MUCH MONEY FOUND

Under instructions from the court, when Mr. Whitney was appointed administrator, he was authorized and instructed to make careful search of the premises, in view of the local supposition that Oppelt must have considerable money hidden, as it was frequently said that he was not a depositor at either of the two banks and that he seldom left the building housing the store and living quarters. The administrator was to sell the merchandise and building. Subsequent research discloses some banking activities as early as 1856 and as late as 1900.

At that time Guy Dering was in the coal and fuel business in the wooden sheds just south of the railroad on the east side of Ludington street, with his office and scales in the end nearest the street; which would be diagonally across the tracks south east from Oppelts building.

THE OPPELT BUILDING

The Oppelt building, according to statements of men still living, who knew Mr. Oppelt personally, was a brick structure about twenty four feet by possibly thirty, and was about two feet above ground level with three steps leading up to the front door. There was a second floor above the store, the building having a flat roof.

Guy, of course, had known Mr. Oppelt perhaps as well as anyone with the possible exception lender to various persons which the administrator proceeded to collect, some in arrears were collected by forclosier of the mortgage.

Apparently enough money, as well as promissary notes had been found, to cause the Judge to put the Administrator under Bonds in the of Mr. Jac Dering, but as previously stated, Oppelt did not make friends easily, was a recluse, and very sparing in conversation.

The Administrator, who was a cripple, probably asked Guy to assist in the systematic search of the premises, and from time to time substantial

amounts of money was found. There were also a number of mortgages and promissary notes found indicating that Mr. Oppelt was a money amount of \$35,000 as stated in the paper of March 14, 1900.

And the building and two lots also were to be disposed of. From information picked up from citizens still living, the building was sold to Frank Wilske, who salvaged the brick and lumber, which he used in constructing one of the several brick houses on the right hand, or east side of Ludington street, some of which have no frontage on the street, but face the river east of the "Beaver Dam bridge."

We have heard from several sources that the lots were acquired by W. C. Leitsch, one of the attorneys in the Oppelt case, and ultimately the lots were acquired by E. H. Walker for house building sites.

UNAVOIDABLE DELAYS

It is understood that if not all, at least most of the notes proved to be good, although not yet due, which may have been, in part, one of the reasons why the case was not concluded at an earlier date, for it was not until 1906 that the judge rendered his decision concerning who the rightful heirs were.

No heirs were found through the work of Mr. Leitsch and the Imperial Russian Council, in Chicago, and it is understood that Mr. Leitsch entered into a contingent arrangement with Attorney Eugene Brossard to assist in the search.

But through some good fortune, Attorney G. C. Grisim had found a small group of heirs in Bohemia that part of the former Austria Hungarian Empire, now a part of Czechoslovakia who proved to be the most direct heirs, and were found by Judge Stroud to be, and were declared the rightful heirs.

The local Columbus Democrat, printed in its issue of June 1, 1906, a clipping from the Portage Democrat which is as follows:

DECISION IN OPPELT CASE

Wednesday, June 1, 1906

Judge Stroud late Friday afternoon made public his decision in the Oppelt case from Columbus. These are the conclusions of law.

"That the claimants, Caroline Knechtel Endler, Rosalia Knechtel Hesse and August Knechtel of the same kindred and the next of kin in equal degree to the said Edward Oppelt, and are the heirs at law to the said Edward Oppelt, deceased, and as such they are entitled to share equally in the distribution of the estate of the said Edward Oppelt, deceased.

That the said Franz Pappert and Anton Papper, also Emanuel Oppelt, son of Edward and grandson of Jacob Oppelt, are one degree further removed in kinship to said Edward Oppelt, deceased, than the aforesaid claimants and they cannot under the law, participate in the distribution of said estate.

So also are the descendants of the so-called adopted daughter of John Casper Thurnherr (if she was legally adopted) barred from participating in the distribution of said estate for the reason that such descendants are not heirs of said Edward Oppelt, deceased, and for the further reason that such descendants (even if they were entitled to inherit) are one degree further removed in kinship to deceased Edward Oppelt than aforesaid claimants.

Edward Oppelt kept a store in Columbus and died January 5, 1900, leaving property to the amount of \$32,654 (considerable money and many notes and mortgages) were found in the house.

A large amount of the money was found in packages to which a wire and to that a cord had to be attached and the whole let down a chimney from a hole in the attic to which the old man had to creep between the ceiling and the roof. (This must have been an unused chimney for there was a stove which must have been connected to an active chimney.)

The balance (of the money and papers) was also found in cunningly devised hiding places. Oppelt lived alone and had no relatives in America. To find the heirs was the task of the administrator, A. H. Whitney (and his attorney George Stevens).

Thursday, August 28, 1958

545

By appointment of the Russian consul in Chicago Attorney W. C. Leitsch of Columbus represented the interests of alleged heirs in that country, and Attorney G. C. Grisim of Columbus was appointed attorney for several Bohemian claimants by the Austrian consul.

Alleged neices, nephews, adopted children and cousins to the 'steenth removal, scattered over a large hunk of Europe clamored for their "bit."

Proceedings for the settlement of the estate have been dragging along in the county court through six years of postponements and a maze of foreign and domestic red tape.

Edward Oppelt, deceased, was born in Libau, Russia and was the son of Anton Oppelt and Sophia Barbara Oppelt, nee Thurnherr. His father died in 1850, March 21st and his mother the next year, March 9th. His sister and brother died without issue, as did all of the children of his grandparents on his mother's side.

Several children were born to his grandparents on his fathers side from 1775 to 1806, among them being Jacob Oppelt and Anna Elizabeth Knechtel, nee Oppelt, respectively his uncle and aunt, and Anton Oppelt, his father.

All died prior to March 22, 1854 except Mrs. Knechtel and his father, and none were married but the three above first mentioned. Jacob married but the three above first mentioned. Jacob married and both he and his wife died, leaving a son Edward Oppelt, a cousin to Edward Oppelt, who died in Columbus.

This cousin died but left a son Emanuel, who is still living and is a second cousin of the former Columbus store keeper. The heirs established by the court are children of Anna Elizabeth Knechtel (nee Oppelt), a sister of Anton Oppelt, and first cousins, and the only first cousins, of the late Edward Oppelt.

The Papperts were children of Mary Anne Pappart, nee Knechtels who are heirs to Oppelt.

John Casper Thurnherr was a brother of the Columbus man's mother, Mrs. Anton Oppelt. Doretta Kluge was called an adopted daughter of Thurnherr, but there is no proof of such adoption. She died prior to 1860 leaving children who died prior to 1897.

The attorneys in the case have not yet filed their bill of expenses.

Portage Democrat

After the decision was announced, it is understood that Attorney Brossard (still living) claimed a share of the fee allowed to Attorney Leitsch, even though through their joint efforts, no rightful heirs were found, and threatened suit, but we understand the matter was settled amiably without going to court.

Case Becomes Campaign Issue

Three years after the decision of the Court was published in 1906, just prior to the April elections 1909, the Oppelt case became a campaign issue between Judge Stroud, who was up for reelection, and his principal opponent Alonza F. Kellogg; the latter published a statement that was quite critical of the administration of the Oppelt case and especially of Judge Stroud in not forcing a conclusion of the case at a much earlier date. Judge Stroud replied in a published article that appeared as a supplement of the Columbus Democrat April 13, 1909, defending his action vigorously.

Because the statement brings out many facts found nowhere else, we are quoting portions.

Excerpts

"Mr. Oppelt died intestate (without a will) at Columbus in January 1900, never having married. He came to this country about the year 1851 and to Columbus about 1856 where he lived continuously up to the time of his death. He was known as a miser and hermit. He conducted a little store, saved practically all of his money and made some loans. He had no relatives and no

close friends. At the time of his death some loans were found bad and mortgages had to be foreclosed.

"Mr. A. H. Whitney of Columbus was appointed administrator in February 1900. I have no apology to offer for this appointment. He was not appointed arbitrarily by me, nor was he selected by me.

Two separate petitions, duly verified were filed for administration and each asked for the appointment of Mr. Whitney. His appointment was made regularly and strictly in accordance with the statutes. George W. Stephens appeared as attorney for Mr. Whitney. W. C. Leitsch was appointed guardian ad litem for minors. This was necessary not only to protect any minor heirs but any minors whose claims as such heirs were adversely adjudicated.

"When Mr. Whitney was appointed he was ordered to render his account in sixty (60) days after expiration of time for hearing claims, and the time for payments of debts was limited to one year. On the affidavit of the administrator setting forth good grounds therefore, orders were made extending time for settlement from time to time.

"On March 19, 1901, Mr. G. O. Grisim appeared as attorney for Emanuel Oppelt, Caroline Knechtel, Rosalie Knechtel and Augusta Knechtel of Bohemia, Austria. This appearance is especially mentioned as these persons were finally proven and determined to be the legal heirs, and Mr. Grisim regularly appeared and represented those heirs throughout the remainder of the proceedings.

"Many persons made claim to the estate, as heirs of Mr. Oppelt. Some of these claimants seemed to connect themselves with the family of the deceased and many were of suspicious character or plainly fraudulent.

"The consulates of the different countries were represented by their attorneys. Depositions were taken in foreign countries. I wrote many letters to foreign claimants giving information and expressing my desire to ascertain the legal heirs.

"Finally, it appearing that it was doubtful if the legal heirs to the estate could be found, pursuant to the statutes, I notified the attorney general of the state of the probable interest of the state of Wisconsin in the estate, and the attorney general appeared in person and investigated the matter and his assistant Mr. Tucker took part in the hearings had to establish heirship. This hearing took place on the 30th of January, 1906.

"I took the matter under advisement and on April 13 filed a written opinion determining the matter and directing the attorneys to prepare and enter formal finding and judgement.

Subsequently and on May 1, 1906 findings and a judgement in proper form were entered.

"By this judgement I decided that Mr. Oppelt was born in Libau, Russia, in 1805 that he lived there until 1851, when he emigrated to America. I also determined the name, residence and the date of death of their children and that these children died leaving no living issue. I also determined the names, residence and date of death of the grandparents of the deceased, both on his father's and mother's side, and the names of their children and their residence, which was at Pihlerbaustellen, Bohemia, Austria, where they lived in 1785.

"It was also necessary to follow out the heirs of a child whom it was claimed was adopted.

"As conclusions, after tracing the heirs, I decided that Caroline Knechtel Enders, August Knechtel and Rosalie Knechtel Heise were the heirs; that they were next of kin in equal degrees and were entitled to the whole estate, and determined that the other claimants along this line, being one degree further removed, were not next of kin and were not entitled to share in the estate.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . . "



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 366

Thursday, Sept. 4, 1958



"From this judgement an appeal was taken to the circuit court of Columbia County by Mr. Whitney as administrator and Mr. Stephens, his attorney: It is fair to say that the attorney general expressed his approval of my findings and judgement determining the legal heirs.

"After the hearing determining the heirs and on March 16, 1906 Mr. Whitney, the administrator, filed his account and the hearing was set for April 17 and by consent of the parties was adjourned to May 1, 1906 and was then heard.

"This account is itemized and quite lengthy. The administrators disbursements accounts to \$1,865.83 and covers over 100 items running from less than one dollar to over \$300 (for foreclosing of mortgages) and were gone over in detail and under oath, and allowed.

The per diem of the administrator was itemized and covered at that time, 277 days (in a period of over six years).

Mr. Stephens, as attorney for the administrator, filed an itemized account covering ten typewritten pages, and asked for something over \$3,600. The administrator made claim for an allowance for extraordinary and expert services, and testified to 60 days of time and estimated the same at \$600 to \$1,000.

The guardian ad litem, Mr. Leitsch, who claimed also to have assisted as Mr. Whitney's attorney, asked for an allowance of \$800. Testimony (sixteen typewritten pages) was taken and is on file covering all these matters.

Continuing to quote from Judge Stroud's article.

"I took these matters under advisement and filed a written opinion (covering five typewritten pages) and allowed Mr. Leitsch \$400 and Mr. Stephens \$1700 for services and \$259.87 for disbursements, and Mr. Whitney for extraordinary services \$400. The statutes provides for an allowance for extraordinary services and it is not unusual. I recall that an allowance of about \$2500 was made to the executors in the N. H. Wood estate and was approved by Mr. Rogers as attorney for the estate.

"As the matter stood, Mr. Whitney testified that his whole claim for services, including the statutory percentage and \$277 for 277 days and not including this allowance amounted to \$766.66, and the testimony justified the allowance which I made.

"The evidence shows that Mr. Stephens did good work and a vast amount of it and I am satisfied that he put his entire time on this estate for many months and that the sum of \$1700 is not in the least exorbitant.

"The items allowed to the administrator and making up his credits, are as follows:

Disbursements	\$1911.13
Administrator services \$1.00 per day and statutory percentage	\$ 777.06
Administrators extraordinary services allowance	\$ 400.00
G. W. Stephen attorney fees and disbursements	\$1950.87
W. C. Leitsch, guardian ad litem	\$ 400.00
Monument, funeral expense and doctors	\$567.25
Taxes	\$2876.03
Debts allowed	\$ 548.75
	\$9440.60

Personal estate per account	\$30,333.11
The account showed a gain of	\$ 7,074.50
Interest after filing account	\$ 454.05
	037,860.66

Total personal property and Real Estate	\$ 1,400.00
	\$39,260.66

Leaving for the heirs \$29,819.97

"The heirs were represented by Mr. G. C. Grisim and the U. S. Consul, Mr. Douzelman, and by their agent, Mr. Adolph Kraus, who I understand is a very prominent attorney of Chicago, a member of a leading firm of attorneys and that he personally is the attorney for the Austrian government.

"The receipts of the heirs for the full amount of their distributive shares had to be and was properly presented and filed."

End of quotation—

Presumably the fees of Mr. Grisim and Mr. Kraus were received from the claimants in the settlement.

While Judge Stroud was criticized by his opponent who charged that "the heirs of Mr. Op-plet were legally robbed before the eyes of the Judge", and it does seem to have taken an unusually long time to have settled the case, the fact remains that during the six and one-half years intervening from start to finish of the administratorship, the value of the estate, through income derived, was increased over \$7,500, the heirs receiving nearly as much as the value of the estate in the first place, that a charge of permitted robbery, through allowance of excessive fees was not justified.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 367

Thursday, Sept. 11, 1958



A Tribute

About six months after the decision was announced in the local papers, Miss Alice Lowth, a daughter of the highly esteemed and well known former teacher, Matthew Lowth, and herself one of the best teachers who ever taught in Columbia County, contributed a touching tribute to the almost friendless foreigner who had died about seven years before. It was originally published in the Columbus Republican and re-printed in the Columbus Democrat of January 18, 1907 and included here in its entirety.

Edward Oppelt

The Columbus Democrat, in a late issue, enumerated some of the citizens who have largely contributed to the material advancement of the city of Columbus. One name was omitted that should be written in bold relief—it is that of Edward Oppelt.

He earned more than he consumed, and the increment became the basis of many business negotiations. No small degree of interest centered upon the product of a long life of continuous toil and voluntary privation.

The distribution, the scattering, of what he accumulated has been a long drawn out and difficult problem; if each one concerned has received his just dues, then the principles of exact dealing and an equivalent of value received, truths for which Mr. Oppelt firmly stood, have been fully endorsed.

Mr. Oppelt was the one mysterious character that figured in the history of Columbus for more than half a century. At the first dawn of what is now the city, this strange man came; whether his coming was accidental or intentional, it matters not. He stayed and accumulated. He lived in a humble brick store near the railroad. In this place he retailed his wares in small quantities to the poor. They in turn gave him their pennies and he hoarded them.

Wealthy people were not his patrons. The unpretentious brick store and its weird occupant had no particular concern for them. He was not familiar with the tricks of commercialism. He neither flattered nor deceived. His ways were artless and unassuming. His life was without events, save an occasional encounter with a high-wayman.

The courteous address, the regal bearing, gave evidence of careful culture and familiarity with high born, well bred people. Yet a veil of mystery hung over his life that never lifted here. His plans and his motives were impervious to human insight, suspicious, he gave no one his confidence. He loaned, and he hoarded; and avarice ruled with an iron hand.

It overshadowed all spiritual impulses. It dried the fountains of high ideals and made him wretched. He might at one time have been genial: the love of money made all else subservient. The miser and the spendthrift differ but little; both act from selfish motives, one hoards, the other sows broadcast. To please self is the main desire and the lot of each is want and woe.

Was he an exile who left his native land to find a refuge beyond the rolling deep? Did he seek to assuage a silent grief or to quell the pang of remorse? Did he say as the ship weighed anchor

and he took his last look at his native hills, "A home and country remain not to me. Never again in the green sunny bowers where my forefather lives shall I spend the sweet hours."

The exile and the hermit have ever been themes for poetic imagination. It might be the sorry, the gloom that comes from shutting out the sunlight of a life that inspires the bard. It is but fair to take an optimistic view of Edward Oppelt's early hanhood. Perhaps a scion of a distinguished family, reared under refining influences, he had lived a well rounded life in his fatherland.

Secretiveness and acquisitiveness dominated his action in the New World. His holdings were honestly acquired. He neither speculated nor oppressed. Surely his estate was a mere atom compared to the colossal fortunes of his contemporaries, Russell Sage and Hetty Green. But they like him, had no sympathy for their fellowman.

He had no tainted money with which to found libraries and endow colleges for people of means and leisure. He had no thought of the world that he was leaving, he had forgotten his kinsmen. His last days were spent in misery and want; the flow of the warm fire was lacking, no nourishing food to sustain life's ebbing powers, alone and desolate. Loving hands were not there to smooth his pillow or to wipe the death damp from his brow. He died "unwept, unhonored and unsung."

His death caused no sensation save the excitement of seeking the hidden treasure. He was carried to "God's acre, to rest where human harvests grow".

The old building with its moss covered brick is a reminder of the incoming and outgoing of one of the early settlers of Columbus. It also reminds us of the vanity of misdirected efforts. The student will hardly find such a life worth imitating. He who seeks to evade responsibility and heeds not the call of his fellow creatures cannot be happy.

—Alice Lowth

Editor of the Democrat

The editor of the Columbus Democrat at the time of the Oppelt case was Mr. L. T. Davies, who was also an attorney, commented on Miss Lowth's article, in the Columbus Republican as follows:

"We copy the above article by permission of the author. We consider it one of the very choicest gems that it has ever been our pleasure to peruse.

The sentiments expressed and the perfect and exquisite language used are all indeed worthy of her who penned it. Just as the subject of her sketch lived for self alone, so to the contrary has the writer of that sketch lived in order that the world might indeed be the better because of her having lived in it.

If any person known to the writer has done her full utmost to aid and assist her fellow beings at a time when they most needed it, that person in our opinion is Alice Lowth, the writer of that article.

Her whole life has been one of love, compassion, charity and aid, as best she could render to all her fellow beings and that without her ever expecting or receiving any remuneration at all for her work, except the well deserved knowledge that she has indeed done her duty to the world.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 367

Thursday, Sept. 11, 1958



Cemetery Lot Bought

A search of the records of Hillside cemetery shows that in 1878, twenty two years before his own death, Edward Oppelt purchased Lot No. 76 in addition 1 of the "new" cemetery, upon which there is a grave with a small marker on which is inscribed "Ursular Bigger, Born Knoble, 1831-1878. A large monument was placed by the Administrator of his estate on which there appears in large letters the single word Oppelt, and in smaller letters, Edward Oppelt, born 1818, died 1900.

Discrepancy In Age

However it should be noted that the date of birth as shown on the monument, 1818, is not in agreement with the findings of Judge Stroud, for after complete and full investigation he determined Oppelts birth as "at Libau, Russia, in 1805, which should be accepted as the correct year of birth.

John Brokopp, whose father preceded John as sexton at the cemetery, states that his father always said that Ursula Bigger was Oppelts housekeeper and was possibly a relative. Will Pietzner confirms this statement, and both agree that as far back as their own memories go, Mr. Oppelt lived alone.

Boys Will Be Boys

John also said that the neighborhood boys from "Mexico" liked to tease and annoy Oppelt, who kept a loaded muzzle loading single barrel musket in the store which at times was loaded with shot, and other times with rock salt. It was John who, after the old man's death, removed the charge of powder and shot after first soaking it in water.

He also is authority for the statement that

brakemen on the freight trains sometimes threw rocks and iron coupling pins at the building as they rumbled past, just to tease and annoy the harmless old man.

His store has already been mentioned and that he kept relatively few items. This is confirmed when we found his inventory taken by the administrator was valued at only \$148.30.

Bite By Bite

Will Pietzner, who was brought up in "Mexico", also recalls that when he was only five or six years old he sometimes went to this store in company with an older sister who led him by the hand. They would exchange eggs for tea and coffee. Sometimes he says the old man, who was always neatly dressed in good clothing and kept his heavy growth of hair well combed, would take a stick of candy and divide it among sometimes as many as three or four children, but instead of breaking it, he would carefully measure it and bite it off, handing the "bite" to each in turn.

George Holtz recalls that when he worked for the Brittingham and Hixon Lumber yard which was before there were electric lights here, they had a kerosene lamp in the office. When the lamp was empty of oil, George would walk across the tracks to Oppelts, where the tall old man would fill the lamp and trim the wick and then say in a thin high pitched voice, "three cents please", but one time he said, "five cents please, oil has gone up."

There are, no doubt, many people still living who will recall, either the man himself, or at least who have heard discussed fifty odd years ago, the story of the "Russian".

Thursday, Sept. 25, 1958

INSTALLAMENT NO. 368

Letters like this encourage us to continue this Story of Columbus.

I have read the tribute to Edward Oppelt contributed by Miss Alice Lowth and printed in the Columbus Democrat in 1907, and as I read it I realize I was reading one of the most beautiful contributions to literature I have ever read and Mr. Davies' comments expressed my opinion better than I can.

There are very few contributions of this type that find their way into country newspapers, or cosmopolitan, for that matter, and you are to be thanked for discovering and bringing it to light.

I was living in Columbus at the time it was published but do not recall reading it.

I was not as appreciative of good literature at that time of life as I am now.

Sincerely,

J. R. Wheeler

Milwaukee, Wis., Sept. 19

We would that this world had more of such grand sublime characters as this woman. We would undoubtedly be living then in a veritable Paradise on Earth.

She is certainly worthy of her father, the late lamented Matthew Lowth, one of the grandest men that the sun ever shown upon, a man without a fault save of his own, a man without an envy, a man whom all the world who knew him was proud to call him friend.

We fully realize that the debt we owe her ourselves is one beyond our power to ever repay. During a short stay of five months under her father's roof, in the winter of 1884 she taught us more practical knowledge of the English language, of the classics and of the higher mathematics that we have ever been able to learn in ten years attendance in the Public Schools of this city.

She had a natural talent for imparting her apparently unlimited knowledge to others and nothing seemed to please her more than to have an opportunity of doing so. We know of no more appropriate sentence in which to close this poorly written opinion of her to whom we owe so much, "well done thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful in everything thou hast done. Nothing is too good for thee."

The writer has not been fully satisfied with the results of his research in this case as the Columbus Democrat, which is the only Columbus paper since 1868 in bound volumes, that are available.

Up to comparatively recent years, the Columbus Republican papers were in storage in the library basement but they are not in bound volumes, and therefore useless as far as research is concerned; but in a few cases where we have "dug out" specific copies, the news coverage has been more complete than papers of the same week in the Democrat.

He therefore contacted County Judge E. J. Morrison to see if the court records of the Oppelt case could be examined. To this request Judge Morrison replied in part as follows:

"I have gone through the very voluminous file we have here and have extracted therefrom, several papers which I believe will be of some interest and assistance to you.

"I recall that I had not been in Columbus long, back in 1916 when I began to hear many reports concerning this estate (Oppelt). I know that there was some rumor that Messrs. Stephens,

Whitney and Leitsch came out of the affair with considerable advantage to themselves. In checking the file that was in Mr. Stephen's office (in which Judge Morrison began the practice of law in Columbus, as a partner of Mr. Stephens) and in talking with others, I was always convinced that these rumors had not foundation in fact, I feel more convinced after checking the complete file here."

"So far as the charges were concerned, the estate was necessarily held open for six years to establish hearings and to liquidate the estate. The attorneys at this time would charge a fee, and properly so, which would make the fee and compensation charged by the three men mentioned fantastically low by comparison.

"I was particularly interested in one portion of Judge Stroud's opinion covering funeral expenses. The itemized bill showed the cost of the coffin to be \$150. the dark suit \$15. and embalming fluids \$10. You will observe that he holds such charges are ridiculously high, I wonder how he would regard the present charges for such items."

The Inventory

We were particularly interested in the inventory of personal property, as listed by the Administrator.

There were a total of 27 notes, most of which were secured by mortgages, totaling \$21618.06, running from \$50.00 of which there were two: there were three of \$2500-\$3000 and \$3500.

Three were of amounts of over a thousand each; a dozen or more from \$500 to \$1000, and seven less than five hundred dollars.

Most of the mortgage notes were dated in 1899 and a few in 1898. Six bore interest rates of 5%; fifteen drew 6%; five were at 7%, and one was 8%.

There were two other mortgages that had to be foreclosed, and judgement rendered, totaling \$1135.80.

There were U. S. Government bonds totaling \$1500 purchased Nov. 1st 1899; drawing interest at 3%.

The amount of cash, discovered in the property, or in the bank, amounted to \$5,786.75 plus old coins worth \$4.00.

Inventory of merchandise in the little store, covered four pages, two columns to the page, legal cap size had a value of \$142. Because many items would be unusual nowadays we will mention some, as the prices are so different. 10 brooms \$2.00, 25 packages of Enameline, 50c; 22 cans molasses, \$1.10, 100 sugar in sack \$4.75, 53 packages coffee Essence, 35c; 52 boxes parlor matches, 50c; 20 3/4 pounds Standard Tobacco, \$3.20; 30# Stick Candy, \$1.50; 110# Green Coffee, \$5.50; 1 box clay pipes, 80c; 29 1/2 # Badger Smoking Tobacco, \$4.43; 12 1/2 # Peerless Smoking Tobacco, \$3.75; 1 Butt Spear Head Tobacco, \$6.30; 19 yds. toweling, 75c; 4# snuff, \$1.00; 41 lead pencils, \$2.05; 18 saw files, \$1.08; 3 1/2 kegs cut nails, \$2.00; 9# tallow candles, 90c; 38 cakes Nimble Nickle Soap, 76c; 46# shot, \$2.30; 25# Brown Sugar, \$1.10; 21 fine tooth combs, \$1.25; 8 tooth brushes, 15c; 75 sheets sandpaper, 40c; 14 Gimlets, 25c; 5 pounds Rock Candy, 50c; 23 panes of glass 9 x 12, 65c; 43 panes 8 x 10, 85c; 1 1/2 bbl vinegar, \$1.50; 6 mouth organs, 15c; 100 packs Black Jack Gum, 40c; 3 boxes cigars, \$1.50; 4 gals Kerosene, 40c; 1 revolver, \$2.50; 1 dinner bell, 15c; some old boxes and other things not worth mentioning.

The inventory was taken by two appraisers Mic Adams, and H. M. Blumenthal, the entries are probably in the hand writing of Mr. Adams, as we are sure it is not that of Mr. Blumenthal.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 369

Thursday, Oct. 2, 1958



MORE ABOUT OPPELT . . .

Chicago, Ill. September 19, 1958

Just a few lines on the Oppelt matter. One brother and I would each take an egg to him and would receive one Caporal cigarette each which we would take to Uncle Pietzners pasture in Mexico and smoke there. But the interesting feature about Oppelt was that he would line the store foundation with the egg shells until they extended on three sides of the store outside, omitting the front. Also my brother would beg or buy Russian stamps from him. He was always kind to us as we were to him.

Sincerely,
Art Thiede

Money In A Bank

We had always heard that Mr. Oppelt did not trust Banks, this being the basis of the popular belief that his money was secreted in his building.

However the inventory is proof that he had some money deposited in at least one of the two local banks; whether it was in certificates, checking account, or simple savings we have no way of knowing, and there is no point in doing any specific research, the fact having been established that he had money in the bank at the time of his death.

Another interesting fact, discovered in a recent visit to the Archives and Manuscript Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society, is that Mr. Oppelt had money on deposit in the "Bank of Columbus" our first bank, which opened in Oct. 1856, operated until the summer of 1861 when it was forced to close its doors, (see installments 117-118-312 to 317, The Story of Columbus.)

This fact was established by finding a pass book issued to E. Oppelt showing deposits made as follows. December 5, 1860, \$102.00; Dec. 28, 1860, \$105.00 Jan. 14, 1861, \$42.77; April. 6, 1861, \$127.57; April 13-1861, \$10.00 or a total of \$387.34 deposited in four months, and withdrawals of small amounts a few times, totalling less than \$50.00 which possibly means that he suffered a loss of around \$350.00 when the bank closed a few months later.

A quick examination of about fifty small memo books did not turn up any other pass books. This was found in the Rockwell-Wheeler files, at the Historical Society, and may possibly indicate that Mr. Oppelt was a patron of the Union Bank established by John R. Wheeler, in Sept. 1861, which is at least a possibility.

Notes Outlawed

Five notes shown on the original inventory of the appraisers do not show on the report of the

Administrator as they were old and outlawed by the statute of limitations.

There were two notes of two individuals, each for \$50.00. Since descendants are living, the names are not given, as we have no desire to cause any embarrassment to anyone.

The only other item of interest shown in the inventory are outlot number 19, appraised at \$600, and outlot number 32, appraised at \$800 which amounts, we understand were realized.

Hearing To Establish Heirship

A most interesting document, consisting of twelve typewritten pages, was a transcript entitled. "In Re Estate of Edward Oppelt, Deceased"; bearing date of January 30th, 1906. The individuals mentioned under title of appearance were, W. C. Leitsch, Guardian ad Litem; A. H. Whitney, Administrator; George W. Stephens, his attorney; G. C. Grisim, S. Rosendale and H. Douzelman, Attorneys for Caroline Ender et al (other) Claimants. F. T. Tucker, assistant Attorney General, for Wisconsin; all of whom took part in the proceedings, either as witnesses under question to establish facts, or those asking questions.

Among many other facts brought out, as a result of extensive correspondence with various individuals, official claimants at various places in several countries in Europe, in following various clues from a great many letters found in various parts of Mr. Oppelt's building, all of which had to be translated, requiring much time, effort and expense covering several years, is that Mr. Oppelt's full name was John Frederick Edward Oppelt, a son of Anton Oppelt and his wife Sophia Barbara Thurnherr.

Anton Oppelt had come from Prague, Bohemia, which was then a part of Austria, and his wife had come from Schaffhausen, Switzerland; the date and details of their becoming acquainted and married at Libau, Russia, is not a matter of record.

Their son Edward was born at Libau, in 1805; he apparently received a good education. For reasons unknown he decided to emigrate to America; he first located in New York City where he remained about five years. Why he came to Columbus is not known but he came here in 1856 where he continued to reside (and engaged in a retail store on a very limited scale.) He apparently was on good terms with his family, for a good many letters were found in various places in the building, exact number not stated, but referred to in the hearing as "a large number."

They were all from either the parents, brothers and sisters, or other relatives, and came frequently from 1851 to as late as 1897. There were also copies of many documents and records read at the hearing that were helpful in establishing the rightful heirs.

The "Story of COLUMBUS"



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 370

Thursday, Oct. 9, 1958



Mr. Stephen's Bill

Attorney Stephens filed a bill for his services as Attorney for the Administration on May 1st 1906 in the amount of nearly thirty-six hundred dollars. It consisted of ten closely typewritten pages with at least 324 separate entries running from as little as one dollar to one entry of over \$800, totaling as above stated.

Mostly the different items were writing of letters, and costs of translating letters and documents from German, or Russian, or Swiss to English. About one-half of the bill was disallowed by Judge Stroud.

Jacob Dering, who perhaps knew Mr. Oppelt better and was closer to being friendly, who nursed Oppelt during his last illness, and at whose home Oppelt's funeral was held, brought in a bill for his services, of \$950; of which the Judge allowed \$385 and disallowed \$565.

Judge Stroud's Order

Another document examined was Judge Stroud's Order fixing compensation of Attorneys, Administrator and Guardian ad Litem, and comments on other charges.

This covered five typewritten pages, from which we quote a few short excerpts.

"The sum of \$175 is charged by the Administrator for coffin. This amount is entirely too large, and I consider the expenditure of this sum for this purpose extremely extravagant. A reasonable sum should be expended for the burial of deceased persons, but the growing disposition to be extravagant in matters of this character should be checked, and I have found it necessary heretofore to criticize final accounts in this respect.

The sum charged in this account for burial (six and half years previously) will be allowed, but I desire to give notice that in the future, expenditures of this character will be carefully scrutinized and will be disallowed if found to be of an extravagant nature.

Mr. Whitney's Bill

Mr. Whitney's bill primarily consisted of the "stationary charges, and a charge of one dollar per day for services 277 days. He also asked for \$800 for extraordinary services, and testifies that he has performed services requiring extraordinary skill and estimates the time put in at about sixty days, during which time he was usually attending to other matters of business, and on very few occasions did he devote the whole of any day to the performance of these services.

I am satisfied that some of the services performed were of an extraordinary character and requiring extraordinary skill, and that some amount should be allowed to Mr. Whitney therefore, and have determined to fix the same at the sum of \$400, and to allow Mr. Whitney to take credit for that sum therefore."

Mr. Leitsch

"At the commencement of the proceedings for administration it appeared that there were minor

heirs who might be interested in the estate, so it seemed necessary, or, at least, expedient—to have a guardian ad litem appearing for the purpose of representing the interest of any heirs who might be under age. Mr. Leitsch has appeared during all the proceedings and throughout the administration has acted as guardian ad litem, and at the same time at the request of the administrator, he has performed legal services for him in connection with Mr. Stephens in determining the rightful heirs and in the management of the estate. In the present situation, there being nothing to show the exact number of days put in by Mr. Leitsch or the amount of services rendered, it is necessary that his fees be fixed arbitrarily at some sum.

I am impressed with the idea that the sum asked for by Mr. Leitsch (\$800) is too large and, with considerable hesitancy in fixing the amount which should be allowed him, I have determined to fix the same at the sum of \$400."

Mr. Stephens

After receiving some of the items on Mr. Stephens' bill, Judge Stroud said, "I regard these charges as entirely too high, and the same cannot be allowed."

"I am well aware that at the time of the commencement of the proceedings to administer this estate, it was a very difficult matter to locate and determine the heirs of the deceased, and that the services performed by Mr. Stephens in this respect and in searching for and ascertaining the true heirs, which, of course, required the investigating of much evidence relative to the claims of those who were not, in fact, heirs to the estate, required a great deal of time and painstaking labor on his part; and I am well satisfied that Mr. Stephens has done commendable work for the estate in this respect and performed services for which he should receive fairly liberal compensation.

"It seems to me that it clearly appears that the bill as rendered by Mr. Stephens is too large and a large part of it should be disallowed. I have concluded to allow the administrator a lump sum for the services of Mr. Stephens, without attempting to itemize the same, nor to criticize the further than I have done heretofore.

For the services performed by Mr. Stephens: I have concluded to allow the sum of \$1,700, in addition to his expenses, which amount to the sum of \$264.37."

"I regret that this matter comes up in such shape as to make it appear that the court is acting arbitrarily in fixing the compensation of the attorneys and administrator of this estate, but I see no way of avoiding it and trust that all will appreciate that I am disposed to fix the compensation at a sum which I deem reasonable and fair.

THE END

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Oct. 16, 1958

INSTALLMENT NO. 371



Murder and Lynch Law

In the "Story of Columbus" we have persistently avoided publishing anything that might bring embarrassment or sorrow to anyone presently living.

However, when we encounter, in our research, such items as the above heading, accounts of acts committed in the county or nearby counties, that at the time was published widely, including our Columbus-Journal of that period, we believe they cannot be ignored.

Following the conclusion of any or all wars, history records an increase in crimes of violence.

When the boys in uniform returned to their home communities, there were many who harbored deep-seated grudges, perhaps against officers, with whom they had sworn to get even, if opportunity ever offered.

Such may have been the case, and apparently was, in the double tragedy that took place at Portage in September 1869, about which a whole column in small type, appeared in the Journal of September 10.

Barney Britt shot, William H. Spain, the murderer, hung by the excited populace was the heading of the article.

"An exciting day in Portage." Our city was the theater of one of those tragic scenes, on Thursday afternoon, which not unfrequently occur in far western towns, but are happily less frequent in communities where law and order are the established order of things. The event of which we speak, was the shooting in our business streets, in broad daylight of Barney Britt, at the hands of William H. Spain, and the almost immediate lynching of Spain by the infuriated populace many of whom witnessed the shooting. Both of these men were well known in the vicinity."

Both Spain and Britt were Irishmen, and were members of Co. D. 19th Wis. Vols., during the rebellion. Spain succeeded to the captaincy of the company on the promotion of Col. Vaughn, and Britt being a private in the same company. During their service bitter feelings sprang up between them, Britt always claiming that Spain had abused him, and they scarcely ever met without some hard words ensuing.

On Thursday, Mr. Britt, who lived in the adjoining town of Fort Winnebago, came to town, and the usual quarrel ensued, which was repeated in the afternoon.

Some reports say that Britt struck Spain, but from careful inquiry we cannot learn such was the case, and believe it was not so. After the last quarrel, Spain went to his house and procured a loaded revolver and on going down the street, he perceived Britt following along after him. He then turned around and told Britt that he must not follow him, and was replied to by Barney Spain that he was not following him, but was going on about his own business.

Spain again repeated his admonition, and was replied to as before, when Spain raised his revolver and saying "take that you son of a—," discharged it at Britt who was about sixteen feet distant, shooting him through the heart, killing him instantly.

The shooting, witnessed by many and news of which rapidly spread through the city, created the most intense excitement, and the cry was immediately set up "Hang him! Hang him!"

Spain immediately started for Squire Haskell's office with the purpose of surrendering himself to the authorities. He was overtaken by Marshall Hickey at the head of the stairs, followed closely by deputy sheriff Pool, and was duly arrested by these officers, who started to jail with him.

They were met at Haertel's by a crowd of infuriated people who showed such signs of violence that they took the prisoner into the Express Office and a posse of men was detained to guard the door. Before they (the officer) could get him into the express office he (the prisoner) had been severely beaten.

In a few moments a large crowd of people came surging down the streets, from every quarter, the door was forced, a rope was thrown over the neck of the unfortunate man in less time than we can write it, he was dragged through the streets to a tree near the junction of Lock with Wisconsin street, the rope was thrown over a limb and the victim suspended between heaven and earth; and his spirit had returned to its Giver. All this occurred within the brief space of about thirty minutes.

All attempts of officers and others who interfered to prevent these proceedings were as fruitless and unavailing as would have been dry leaves to stay the whirlwind. It was almost like madness to presume to interfere.

After Spain's body had remained suspended, for about half an hour. Deputy Sheriff Pool, cut it down and his brothers coming in from Fort Winnebago took charge of it and conveyed it home.

Within an hour after the affair occurred the city was quiet as though nothing unusual had transpired.

The foregoing brief statement contains all the important facts known to us concerning this most deplorable affair.

Both Spain and Britt have long been known in this vicinity—Spain was formerly Register of Deeds in Adams County, but for the past six months has been engaged in the practice of law. He was a man of some ability and shrewdness, but unfortunately for himself, could hardly ever control his temper when excited. He was counsel for P. E. Wildrich, in the late proceedings here, against Wildrich, and out of his connection with the case, he was provoked to an expression for which he was emphatically knocked down, by Dan Ginder, and there seems to be little doubt but that the pistol used against Britt had been prepared for Ginder, for the fact is notorious that Spain had made threats to shoot him, and had

been observed to watch the place where Ginder was supposed to be at work. This fact known in the community, added fuel to the flame, and increased the public indignation. Mr. Spain leaves a wife and four children.

Barney Britt was an unlettered man, and before the war was greatly addicted to drinking, and at the time was very quarrelsome. On his return from the army he ceased drinking altogether, and has ever since been remarkably well behaved and industrious. He was janitor at the Court House and had purchased a farm in Lake Winnebago to the payment of which he was bending all of his energies. He leaves a wife and eight children. PORTAGE REGISTER.

The same paper carried a story about a murder at Kilbourn City, but being rather too far away to be interesting to Columbus present day readers we are not inclined to report it other than to say that the victim's name was Gates who had been shot eight times and his body thrown into the Wisconsin River.

However another lynching took place at Portage, only a week or so after the Spain lynching, the victim being one Pat Waldrich, previously mentioned as a client of Mr. Spain. Here is the story as it appeared in the Columbus Democrat. "More Lynching in Portage."

Reports came in this morning that Pat Waldrich, was taken from the jail and hung to a tree. Passengers who came East on the freight train saw him in this exalted position. No particulars have been communicated.

Portage bears the reputation of being a quiet law abiding city. These recent outbursts of public indignation are startling in their character. They make their appeal to very man with a tremendous emphasis. Are the people safe? Or are they virtually without the protection of law? Are such scenes as have been enacted in Portage necessary for self defense? Desperadoes are at large, houses are broken open, property is stolen, people are robbed, murders are committed, and in some mysterious way the guilty escape.

Officers are paid to execute the law(perhaps to let the prisoners escape but few are the criminals punished. Official corruption has become so bold and brazen faced that it may be needful for the people to look out for their own safety.

Research through to the end of 1869 in the local Democrat fails to find a reference to the two lynchings, as to whether any attempt was made to bring any ring leaders of the mob into court.

Butterfields History of Columbia County

However on pages 494-5 we find this brief account of Pat Wildrick (notice difference in spelling of his name).

"About 1 o'clock of the morning of Saturday, September 18, not quite two days after the shooting of Britt and the lynching of Spain, Pat Wildrick, a notorious desperado, was taken from the Columbia County Jail and hanged to a tree nearby. This was done by a mob of unknown men, who came into the city during the night.

Wildrick was probably one of the worst men that ever trod upon Wisconsin soil. He had served two years at Waupun for highway robbery, and soon after his release, Schnyler S. Gates, who, with his wife and household goods, was moving down the Wisconsin River from Kilbourn City on two boats lashed together, was robbed, while encamped on the bank of the river at night, of about \$2400., Mrs. Gates being outraged by one of the robbers, whom people had every reason to believe was none other than Pat Wildrick. At any rate, Wildrick, was arrested and lodged in jail, being taken to Sauk City, where he was indicted, and having his case continued, he broke jail, but was recaptured. Pending his trial which was set for October 9, Wildrick was released on bail. He then came to Portage, where, almost immediately afterward, he was caught in the act of perpetrating a highway robbery and lodged in the Columbia County Jail.

During his examination for this latter offense (in which he was defended by William H. Spain) Mr. Gates was murdered near Kilbourn City, and it was generally believed that Wildrick's accomplices in the robbery were, the perpetrators of the deed, as Gates would have been an important witness in the case.

The lynching of Wildrick was conducted shrewdly. Two men, with a third between them, went to the jail and knocked upon the door. Deputy Koerner, upon answering the knock, was informed by one of the outsiders that they were officers in charge of a criminal whom they wished locked up. The door was opened and they were admitted, whereupon Koerner was seized and others of the parties immediately entered the jail.

Sheriff Sorrenseon, coming upon the scene was also secured, his hands being tied behind him and a handkerchief being placed over his mouth. The key to Wildrick's cell was then taken from Koerner's pocket.

What followed, need not be repeated, but Wildrick's dead body was found hanging to a tree the next morning.

In December the grand jury returned indictments against eleven of the supposed lynchers, but it was subsequently shown that one third of the members of the jury were disqualified on account of being aliens.

It also appeared that one of the eleven men indicted was many miles away when the tragedy was enacted. The whole matter was finally dropped.

Such actions as we have reviewed could not have continued long, after an aroused public had begun to realize that lax enforcement of the law could no longer be endured.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Oct. 23, 1958

INSTALLMENT NO. 372



Navigation on the Wisconsin River

That portion of the present C. M. St. P. & P. Railroad that ran from Milwaukee through Horicon, Beaver Dam and Portage, long called the "Northern Division" enjoyed a good freight business in the latter half of the 1850's and early 1860's, as did also the Milwaukee, Watertown and Baraboo Valley railroad, which reached as far as Columbus in 1857.

However, while most of the grading was done from Columbus to the Wisconsin River near Merrimac, no rail were ever laid farther than Columbus, because of lack of finances.

But in 1864, after several re-organizations, and untold financial losses to the many farmers, stockholders, and businesses who had mortgaged their worldly possessions to meet their obligations, the railroad from Columbus was built on to Portage.

A vast area had been settled on both sides of the Wisconsin River from Sauk City to Portage; but there being no railroad between Madison and the northwest, the farmers and business men of the area, were at a great disadvantage in the long hauls by wagons to haul wheat and other products to distant rail heads, and merchandise from the rail heads back to the area.

The early settlers, and land speculators, like Mr. N. H. Wood of Portage, who had acquired over seven thousand acres of land along both banks of the Wisconsin, in Caledonia and Pacific, had pinned their faith on the possibilities if not probabilities of steam boat navigation on the Wisconsin River, either down stream to the Mississippi and on to St. Louis, or up stream to the canal, then under construction (see installments 125-6-7) near Portage thence on the Fox River, to the Great Lakes.

There had been a limited amount of river navigation where the water was high, but usually the shifting sand bars discouraged water transportation.

However, because of exorbitant freight rates charged by the few existing railroads, the advocates of river transportation never gave up hope of seeing their dreams come true.

The Columbus Democrat of September 3, 1869 contained the following article which we reprint in full, as well as some items in later issues.

"It is a fact, not generally known here, that the Wisconsin River is being successfully navigated between Sauk City and Portage City (official name at the time)."

Steamers are making regular trips between these two points. The unusually high stage of water the present season, makes the Wisconsin all that is desirable in navigation in a steamer!"

Between the above points, there is unusual activity, and confidence that amounts to a certainty that hereafter they will not be dependent on the railroads to carry their produce to market.

At Prairie du Sac, the trade is already extensive, a thousand of bushels of grain have already been shipped from that port the present season.

At Merrimac, Mr. W. P. Flanders of Milwaukee, is erecting a warehouse on the bank of the river,

and making preparations as fast as possible to purchase produce at that point.

At other places along the river, similar arrangements will be made immediately. The people are sanguine in their belief that the river will be improved at no distant day so that they can rely on the river transportation during the summer season.

The determined energy and restless activity seen along the Wisconsin at the present time, reminds one of the improvements going on in a new country.

Buyers of wheat are being stationed along the river who assure the people that they will pay within four cents a bushel of Portage prices.

It is said that the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad company have sent an agent to the several points along the river, to ascertain what is meant by these preparations, and furthermore that he has reported to headquarters that it will be necessary to reduce the tariff (freight rates) on wheat and other articles of produce, being shipped from the central part of the state to Milwaukee, or the river and the canal will take it all from this section by the way of Oshkosh.

Whatever results lie hidden in the mysterious future in regard to this matter, one thing is certain, and that is the railroad company have taken much out of the farmers in the central part of the state, and they say down in Sauk. "that thing is played out." They are going in their own boat on their own hook. Success to the Wisconsin transportation company.

In the Portage items in the same issue of the Democrat we note "the steamer Albany from Sauk, on Tuesday brought up a load of wheat and 42 excursionists. The Albany continues to make regular trips, and is beginning to take cargoes of new wheat.

In the same issue appeared this item about crops in Sauk county. "The bountifulness of the crops of wheat and oats in that county is unprecedented. A few farmers in Sauk Prairie have threshed their wheat, which yielded from 20 to 30 bushel of No. 1 extra, to the acre. Corn is rather late, but will be a good crop. Hops are being picked—the yield is great, but the insects have injured the quality somewhat. On the whole, Sauk County is looking up, the coming out of the desolation of the "hop failures" (see installment 342-3-4) to take her place as one of the best counties in our thriving state.

Prices of grain bought by Columbus buyers, as shown in same issue, was wheat No. 1, \$1.30-No. 2, - \$1.18; rye \$1.05; corn 75c - 80c; oats 50c. There was also a re-print from the Chicago Commercial Express that said "Farmers sell your wheat. There is nothing in the whole range of commercial probabilities which indicates that you will do as well by holding as by selling with reasonable rapidity.

Prices did drop, as shown by Columbus prices being paid September 10—No. 1 wheat being \$1.12 - No. 2, \$1.08, other grains being same as previous weeks.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Oct. 30, 1958

INSTALLMENT NO. 373



Another Steamer

In the Democrat of Oct. 1, we find "the Register reports business on the Wisconsin as lively. The owners of the steamer Albany being unable to carry the wheat accumulating at Sauk, are trying to get additional boats." The Register continues, "we learn that two boats from the Fox will make a trip to Sauk this week to assist in taking away the surplus wheat, and that the Portage is expected from Green Bay to assist the Granite state in moving the wheat from Wentworth's elevator."

It is further stated that a party of gentlemen from Sauk City, are at St. Paul to purchase another steamboat to ply between Portage and Sauk, the Albany being entirely inadequate to do all the freighting business.

The government boat Winneconne is clearing the snage and overhanging trees from the river."

Wheat Prices Decline

In the issue of October 8, 1869 Columbus prices were as follows, No. 1, .95c; No. 2, 90c; No. 3, 82c, and oats had dropped 35c.

The Editor also prints a piece on how foolish or unwise it is for a farmer still badly in debt, to hold his grain for higher prices, against repeated advice to sell, at least enough to pay off a part of his debts.

Shrinkage of value from \$1.30 to 95c for No. 1 wheat meant a great loss to hundreds of farmers who could ill afford to stand such a loss.

On The Wisconsin River

We do not know whether navigational activity continued in subsequent years or not. Also it is not clear whether the wheat brought to Portage was sent to market by rail from that point, or reloaded on the small barges that may have been in use at that time, even though the locks were being deepened and widened. During the ten-year period of 1866 to 1876 the canal and locks, twenty-two in number, was completely rebuilt, the locks being 160 ft. long, 35 ft. wide, it seems doubtful if much shipping could have been done.

The River Improvement Convention

As an indication of how greatly the people of the upper Mississippi River states were interested in water transportation, was the calling of a convention which met at the Court House at Portage October 20, 1868 to which large numbers of prominent men of affairs from Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, headed by the three Governors, dozens of Mayors of cities, large and small, attended.

The following newspapers, were represented, Chicago Post, Chicago Times, Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin, LaCrosse Leader, Wisconsin State Journal, Berlin Current, Oshkosh Times, Northwestern and Journal, Princeton Republican, Mauston Starr and Columbus Democrat.

The purpose was "Now for a free canal to the Lakes. Three columns appeared in the Democrat of October 29th, including fourteen resolutions passed, the first of which was "that a water route by which the steamboats of the Mississippi river can run to the harbors and unload into vessels of the Great Lakes.

Other resolutions were to the effect that government surveys show such a route was feasible, and that the original policy of the government was to make our rivers public highways should be carried out; that the cost would not greatly exceed four million dollars; that the long slow Erie Canal with its many small locks, a speed of only 1½ miles an hour by horse-drawn barges, had kept transportation charges down in New York; that the great want and need of the entire Northwest was cheap transportation; that it was a Federal Government matter, and many other related matters.

We will not trespass on the time of our readers to follow through, but only to add that when the writer first came to Wisconsin in 1900, the Fox was reasonably active and also the Wolf as far up as Fremont, down past Oshkosh through Lake Winnebago with pulp and paper mills, saw mills etc. closely placed all the way to Green Bay. But that a Free Canal to the Great Lakes remained only a dream.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 374
Thursday, Nov. 6, 1958



EDITOR HENRY D. BATH

One of the rewarding compensations that comes from doing the research necessary to write the "Story of Columbus" for this paper comes from reading the papers published so many years ago.

By no means all that we read can properly go into our column. The editor of the Columbus Democrat for many years, beginning in September 1868, was Mr. H. D. Bath, who must have been a well educated man, who wrote well. We find a brief biography of Henry C. Bath of page 955, of Butterfields History of Columbia County of 1880.

Mr. Bath, one of four sons of a Baptist minister who came to Columbus to minister to the Baptist congregation in 1861, was born in Schenectady, New York in 1843.

Henry Bath was educated in the Grass Lake Academy in Jackson county Michigan. He served in the Civil War enlisting in 1861 as a private in Company B of the 7th Michigan, served in the Army of the Potomac; came up from the ranks by successive stages to the rank of First Lieutenant; he was severely wounded in the battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, and was sent home (to Columbus) to recuperate: four months later he rejoined his regiment and was mustered out in 1864.

Became A Newspaper Man

He came to Columbus, and read law in the office of Cook and Chapin, and was admitted to the practice of law at Portage in 1866. Later he went to Milwaukee, and entered the newspaper field, eventually becoming city editor of the Dairy News. Having thus gained much experience, he came to Columbus where he purchased the more or less defunct "Transcript," changed its name to Columbus Democrat, September 10, 1868.

Nine years later, together with a brother W. E. Bath, they established the Portage Democrat in March, 1877.

He was married in 1866 to Miss Louise T. daughter of Matthew T. D. and Theodate Nowell of Columbus; there were two children Paul T. and Dave. Mr. H. D. Bath died in 1880. His father Leny, was not only minister of the Baptist Church in Columbus, (now the Columbo Garment Co.) but as was frequently the case in the early days, was also the County Superintendent of Schools for a number of years.

Very frequently there appeared in the columns of his son's paper, very detailed reports of the condition in which he found the schools on the occasion of his official visits, one of which, from the issue of January 7th, 1869 we reproduce herewith.

County Superintendent Reports

Among the schools; on Monday, after a chilly ride over the bleak prairie, we arrived at school district No. 5 in Fountain Prairie. The school is in charge of Mr. Woodhead. In our visit here, we found nothing to commend. The scholars were allowed to waste their time in whispering and boxing the ears of each other. A disorderly school is an unmitigated evil, and should meet

with a prompt remedy from the Board: 44 names were on the register.

After giving a little wholesome advice, we sought the pure air of the outer world, and following a snow storm, we made our way toward home.

On Wednesday, we shaped our course for district No. 7 in the town of Columbus. Here, Miss Anna Quickenden is teaching a good school. Everything was orderly and pleasant, and the scholars seemed interested in their studies: 27 names were on the register.

After resting at the house of Mr. Samuel Smith where we found a kind welcome and a good dinner, we passed on to district No. 3 in the town of Hampden.

Miss Vance is teaching here, and is giving quite general satisfaction: 17 names are on the register.

Once more on our winding way we drove in the face of a chilly wind, to South Leeds and found the best of accommodations for the night at the house of Mrs. Thomas Sanderson, who is clerk of district No. 8. The school here was closed for a short vacation.

It seems that a question had been started in this district, which is by no means local in its bearing. The question at issue was this, shall the teacher, or the pupils govern the school? Having been duly submitted for adjudication, the decision was rendered that the teacher had better run the school. Better for the pupils in all respects, to take the place as learners, and submit to the authority of their superiors.

We made an early start in the morning for the purpose of visiting North Leeds. Here the school is taught by Mr. Thompson, who seems to be doing well in his position. 34 names were on the register.

Passing on to Leeds Center we made a hasty call at the school in this place. Mrs. Wheeler is teaching here. She occupied the same position last winter; 39 names were on the register. One thing seemed strange to us, as we looked over this school. There were no large scholars, a good teacher, and yet none of the larger class of our young men and women availing themselves of them.

Two miles east of the Center is a new school house, neatly fitted up with "patent" seats. The school was just opening its session. There were quite a number of scholars, some of them young gentlemen and ladies. Miss Carleton is teaching here and appearances would indicate that she will show good results of her work. Turning our horses heads homeward, still looking a biting wind in the face, for the wind changed as we varied our course, we found our way home, where a good fire, and the anticipation of a roasted goose on the morrow, gave comfort to the inner man.

Here endeth the official labours of our first year. The future is before us: but it is a profound which no mortal kin has measured.

Editors note: It will be noted that Mr. Bath uses, correctly, the editorial "we" and "our" to avoid the frequent use of the personal pronouns "I" or "my."

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By
F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 374
Thursday, Nov. 6, 1958



Grand Army of The Republic

An American patriotic organization, consisting of United States armed forces veterans of the Civil War, founded at Decatur, Illinois during the winter of 1865-66. The G.A.R. admitted any member of the U. S. Army, Navy, or Marine Corps who had served between April 12, 1861 and April 9, 1865, and had been honorably discharged; and also members of state regiments who had been called into service.

The organization, founded for the commemoration of dead comrades, and the practice of fraternity and mutual assistance, held its first national "convention" in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 20, 1866; two years later the G.A.R. instituted Memorial Day, usually called at the time "Decoration Day."

According to a rule made by the organization in 1869, the G.A.R. was intended to take no official part in politics, but the organization actually at one time wielded considerable influence, particularly in its support of Presidential candidates between 1872 and 1904, the period during which its membership was greatest.

The organization was responsible for passage of the Disability Act of 1890, which doubled the pension roll. It also pressed for establishment of old soldier homes, and provided care and education for soldier's orphans.

Membership Declines

The membership began to decline after 1890, when the total was 409,487. At the beginning of 1930 the membership was only about 21,000.

The first G.A.R. post was created in Springfield, Illinois, with Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson (1821-71) one of the founders who had been a surgeon in Illinois 14th Infantry was chosen. Its last headquarters were in the State House, Boston, Massachusetts.

Encampments, as they called their conventions, were held annually until 1949 in selected cities of the United States, but in later years few of the delegates were physically able to march in the traditional parades celebrating the event.

The last surviving member died in comparatively recent years.

Auxiliary orders of the G.A.R. are the "Woman's Relief Corps" (still exists here and there), the "Ladies of the G.A.R.," and the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans.

The National Encampment

The National organization was known as the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, and it was vested with supreme power, with the right of making rules and regulations to govern the order. Below this were the state organizations, called departments; and in the third place, local organizations known as posts, which were numbered and named after some locality, battle, or deceased loyal person, such as a Union soldier or sailor.

While the organization was created and functioned at Decatur, Illinois, the first "Post" under the rules promulgated by its organizers, was at Springfield, Illinois.

The first national convention of veterans was held at Indianapolis, Indiana, November 20th,

1866: the second was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania two years later; where General John A. Logan of Illinois was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Order, and the name encampment, rather than a convention was decided upon.

General John A. Logan served for three terms of one year each; General A. E. Burnside of Rhode Island was the next Commander-in-Chief serving two years.

At one time General Lucus Fairchild of Madison was Chief and in 1892 A. G. Weissert of Wisconsin became Chief. We do not have a list of Commanders beyond 1896.

Local Post Organized

The local post was organized in a preliminary way March 17, 1884, by a former Columbus man, M. C. N. Davis, chief mustering officer of the Department of Illinois, and was designated as Columbus Post No. 146, or so mentioned in the Democrat a few weeks later. The actual organization was March 22, 1884 with the following officers elected, Post Commander A. C. Parkinson; Senior Vice Commander, W. G. Bresee, Junior Vice Commander, H. D. James; Surgeon, Henry Annis; Quarter Master, Harvey M. Brown; Adjutant, O. M. Dering; Officer of the Day, James O. Hutchinson; Officer of the Guard, Christian Moll.

The newspaper stated the purpose was to promote a feeling of unity and good fellowship among the old soldiers, always referred to as comrades; no matter what branch of the services they were in. All veterans holding honorable discharges were eligible and welcome. It was suggested that all who would should send in their names so as to be mustered in at an early date. "Come, then, and join with us in living over again the days of hard marches, severe battles and camp life, where hard-tack was at a premium and bacon and black coffee with "hunger, sauce," made a dish for the gods." Captain O. M. Dering will be pleased to give all information in his power in regard to the G.A.R.

The Democrat of April 25, 1884 printed resolutions adopted by Columbus Post 146 G.A.R. at a recent meeting. "Resolved that we invite all old soldiers within hailing distance of this Post, to unite with us in our charitable work. Let our camp fires be brightened by new recruits and our hearts comforted by the revival of associations of the National dark scenes in which we participated."

"Resolved that we hail with joy, the organization of the National Grand Army, and that we will do all we can to weld anew the bonds of army life, and bind our scattered, broken ranks, by the dear ties of loving friendship."

The Motto

The motto of the National Order was "Fraternity, charity and loyalty." It was the custom of the comrades of the different posts to visit all cemeteries in the localities, where union soldiers or sailors were buried on Memorial Day to decorate the graves of their deceased comrades with flags and floral wreaths.

Each post was required to establish a relief fund for the assistance of needy comrades and the wives and children of the deceased who may have needed aid.

No Local Record Books Found

We are at a decided disadvantage because of the lack of record books that must have been kept and which may come to light some day, but as this is written, our information comes mostly from occasional items in the newspapers.

One Little Used Book

Through good fortune we learned that Mrs. Adolph Koblitz had "One G.A.R. book." Mrs. Koblitz was most cooperative and produced a large heavy book about 13" x 18" and nearly two inches thick, handsomely bound in tooled leather, heavily embossed with Gold Leaf laid in all lettering and the half dozen or more designs pertaining to the G.A.R. She also has the post charter but no record books.

Presented By Governor Lewis

On the front cover, in gold lettering is the following "Personal War Sketches," "presented to Frank A. Haskell Post 146" "Department of Wisconsin" by James T. Lewis, Columbus, 1890, "Grand Army of the Republic."

The book contains more than two hundred pages of heavy, parchment like paper, especially engraved heading and borders "Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic. Personal War Sketches of Comrades Frank A. Haskell, Post 146, Department of Wisconsin." The Preface Reads, This volume is designed to contain the record of war services 1861-1865 of the living and deceased members of this Post; the living to certify to the statement of their services, and the facts relating to the dead to be certified by the Post Historian.

The supplementary part of the volume is for a continuance of the personal sketches as occasion may require in the opinion of the Post Historian, also for the preservation of the names and record of other soldiers or sailors who enlisted from the immediate locality.

Resolution pages are provided for containing the resolutions passed by the Post upon the death of a member.

Record of burial pages are intended for the comrades and sailors whose graves the post may decorate from year to year.

Record of presentation page is designed to contain the action of the post upon receipt of this volume.

The Post should obtain permission of the donor for the insertion of a personal sketch, blank pages being provided for that purpose. A sketch of the person after whom the Post is named should also be prepared.

When the Post shall have surrendered its charter this volume can be preserved by the local municipality if a suitable depository for safe keeping is provided, or it can be preserved in the archives of the state.

The volume is respectfully dedicated to the last surviving comrade of the post by the author."

Only 32 Names

Upon examination of contents, there are only 32 names in the index, and personal war sketches of some are very meager.

We are forced to conclude, that, either the Post was very small, or that the request for data for the personal sketches for which it was intended did not meet with good response.

However, subsequent research shows that the post had grown to as high as sixty-one names, according to Columbus Democrat of May 27, 1887 with six applications for membership in the hands of Post Adjutant as of that date.

From this we infer that membership had dropped rapidly or that nearly one-half of the members were not interested in compiling their own personal recollections to be included in the book.

Why Frank A. Haskell Post?

While it is generally well known among the few old timers left, that the G.A.R. post here was once called the Frank A. Haskell Post, and later was changed to the Harvey M. Brown Post, we have yet to find one person who knows why.

We think the answer is probably in the form of a Resolution passed by the original Columbus Post, shortly after the Post was organized, and recorded in a book of records presently lost, but which, it is hoped will be discovered some day.

In the meantime, quoting from the general information given earlier "The Posts were named after some locality, battle, or deceased loyal person such as a Union soldier or sailor."

We have stated that the post was referred to in local papers as Columbus Post 146 and subsequently, exact time of change of name not presently known, it became the Frank A. Haskell Post 146. Frank A. Haskell was, possibly, once a citizen of Columbus, for his older brother Harrison S. Haskell was one of our early lawyers, who became elected to county office and moved to Portage City when the Wisconsin Legislature designated the new town just west of the settlement of Fort Winnebago as the county seat. It is known that Frank lived with his brother at Portage before he began the practice of law in Madison. He enlisted at Madison, had a very outstanding military record ending in death at Cold Harbor, (see installments 329-30 Story of Columbus).

He was, probably, the outstanding Civil War Hero from Columbia County, which could have been the reason for his name being given to the Columbus Post. His body lies in Silver Lake cemetery at Portage according to list on page 571 Columbia County history.

Regardless of the reason, the post continued to be the Frank A. Haskell Post No. 146 until late in December 1894, as shown by careful research through the file of the local paper, the Democrat.

A Monument Proposed

In addition to the annual parade to the cemetery each Memorial Day, for the purpose of honoring all soldiers buried there whether members of the Post or not, by placing a wreath of flowers and a small U. S. flag on each grave, the principle project in the early 1890's was how to go about collection of funds by contributions, or otherwise, with which to erect a suitable monument in memory of, in particular, those veterans that never returned.

For a few years it was wistful thinking but no action: but in the August 17, 1894 paper a notice to the public was printed, asking for contributions which was started by the Post with \$100.; and each week thereafter, names and amounts pledged, were published.

More about the monument later, but now, more about the presentation of the Big Book by Governor Lewis.

During the research relative to the G.A.R. we kept looking for an item sometime during 1890 the year printed on the cover of the beautiful book previously mentioned. We finally were rewarded by finding a full and complete report in the last issue of the Democrat in November 1890, which we quote in full.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Dec. 4, 1958
INSTALLMENT NO. 376



GAR PRESENTATION

Interesting Exercises at Olivet church last evening (Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 27, 1880.)

Olivet church was filled to capacity last evening, the occasion being the presentation by Ex-Governor James T. Lewis of a rich and costly volume, designed to contain the personal war sketches of the individual comrades, to Frank A. Haskell Post of this city.

The comrades met at the Post rooms and at 7:30 o'clock marched in a body to the church, where they were shown to reserved seats. Excellent and appropriate music was furnished under the direction of Mr. W. C. Coles, assisted by Mrs. Marshall Parkinson, Misses Sadie Newcomb and May Yule, Messrs. G. C. Stevens, A. S. Waldo and William Jones, with Mrs. D. S. Fuller at the instrument.

The musical part of the program, was further enlivened by the rendition of "The Girl I Left Behind Me," and "Life on the Ocean Wave," on the fife by the veteran fifer James McCommell and little Miss Maggie James who performed upon the snare drum to the great delight of all present.

GOVERNOR LEWIS' PRESENTATION

After prayer by the Reverend Ferris of Olivet church, Commander Ford briefly stated the object of the gathering and then introduced Ex-Governor Lewis who spoke as follows.

Mr. Commander, and members of Frank A. Haskell Post: Ladies and Gentlemen: The patriot has ever been justly held in high esteem by all nations and in the past has ever been highly honored for his noble deeds in behalf of his country.

Had we been in Rome, some twelve centuries ago, we would have witnessed the triumphal car of Pompey passing through the streets of that great city with all the pomp and pageantry of the Roman Republic in its palmiest days. The historian tells us that the great chieftain sat in a splendid chariot, adorned with jewels: that before the chariot marched the chiefs whom he had subdued and about him were conspicuously displayed articles of value he had captured, the names of countries he had conquered, and the amount of funds he had added to the public treasury.

DIFFERENT DEMONSTRATIONS

Many demonstrations have preceded, and many have followed this of like character. The meetings that must have been held in this country, to do honor to our patriotic soldiers differ somewhat from those held in former days in this, that while we make less display, have less pomp, less of the forms, we have more of the heart in them, and while many in the past have sought to honor the tyrant—the despoiler of countries—we seek to honor the saviors of our country.

While they honored destruction, we would honor salvation, while they honored vice, we would honor virtue, and though we have not the splendid chariots and pageantry to display, we have to offer what we trust will be far more acceptable to our Union soldiers—the firm grasp of the friendly hand, the homage of heart beats that are true, of hearts that beat in unison with theirs, of hearts that appreciate the goodness and greatness of the services they have rendered their

country and we are not only willing, but glad to have the opportunity of expressing to them what we feel.

Our people as well as the loyal people of the whole nation watched the course of our Union soldiers with great interest from the commencement of the war to its close, and witnessed with delight their firm tread forward, never backward, until the great end we all had in view, the salvation of our country, was secured.

WISCONSIN SOLDIERS

I will not attempt to recount all the important events in which Wisconsin soldiers have a prominent part during the great rebellion. Time will not permit. Suffice it to say they fought on nearly every battlefield, none fought better and none received higher praise from those under whom they fought, none made the great sacrifice of life itself more willingly than they.

The noble work of the Union soldiers of Wisconsin deserves a more permanent record. Not only a record of those who were high in command, but a record also of the common soldier.

THE PRIVATES

While those high in command are always noticed and their deeds recorded and while they have means of caring for themselves, the common soldier is sometimes overlooked. Hence it was that during the late War I deemed it my duty to give special attention to the common soldier.

Hence, it was I who visited them in southern hospitals and procured for them the discharge and transfer of many of our brave boys to their homes, or to hospitals in our own state, where they could sooner be restored to health and brought home again to friends, or fitted to again take their places in the ranks of the Union army.

PERMANENT RECORDS

This matter of making a permanent record of the names and doings of Wisconsin soldiers in the late war has been much discussed in the past, but so far as I know, no definite conclusion has been arrived at until quite recently.

Near the close of the war the plan of erecting a monument in the capital park, at Madison, on which could be inscribed the names of all Wisconsin soldiers who took part in defending the country, was much talked of, but finally given up as impractical.

THE BOOK

It was with much pleasure that I lately heard that a company in Philadelphia under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic, for the purpose of furnishing blank record books to be given to each post in which could be recorded the names and deeds of every soldier belonging to the several posts, the purpose being that these books should be filled out and kept by the post, so long as it ever thought proper, and finally deposited in the State Historical Society, there to remain a record for reference in all time to come.

And now, gentlemen of this post, permit me to say I have procured one of these beautiful record books and take great pleasure in presenting it to this post.

In this book, we trust, that each of you will record his name and his individual work in the great struggle for the life of the best government the sun shines upon.

GOVERNOR LEWIS' REMARKS

This record is not intended so much to perpetuate the memory of great organizations, as to perpetuate the memory of the individual soldier, that they may be handed down to future generations. That in this book not only historians, but your children's children may in coming time, read with pride the record of patriots, true and firm to the last, in their country's cause.

And now gentlemen, in conclusion, let me say I shall ever esteem it a high honor to be counted among the friends of those who fought for his country in the time of its greatest need."

Governor Lewis' remarks were frequently applauded and especially by the old veterans (whose average age in 1890 could have been about fifty) with whom he had always been a great favorite.

COMRADE PARKINSON'S RESPONSE

Governor Lewis: By the partiality of my comrades I am bidden, sir, to receive this beautiful and costly gift and in their behalf to return their profound acknowledgments and thanks to you, the generous public spirited donor.

Yet, I cannot withhold expression of regret that the honor had not fallen to an older and abler comrade.

I trust however, I shall not wholly fail to convey to yourself and assembled friends some measure of this gratitude we feel.

It was lately said, "No one feels the inadequacy of language like the grateful." I regret sir, far more than I can tell, the poverty of speech which forbids the performance of this pleasing yet delicate duty with that fullness and cordiality of expression, which I feel in my heart and which is felt as well by every older comrade of this Post.

A REAL HISTORY

This charming volume is singularly complete in design; artistic in execution; permanent in character. The greatest share of it will be devoted to personal war sketches of the individual comrades of this Post. When this work shall have been done, in like manner by all the GAR posts of the Union, we shall have the real history of the Great Rebellion.

You once said to me, Governor, as I now recall the words: "I wanted to do something for the boys, something for the rank and file, something that would preserve for future generations the personal history of their services. The prominent officers have had nearly all the attention thus far."

The poet has beautifully touched this thought:

"I knew him, and also I know

When he fell on the battle swept ridge,

The poor battered body that lay there in blue

Was only a plank in the bridge,

Over which some should pass to fame

That shall shine while the bright stars shine.

Your hero is known by an echoing name,

But the man of the musket is mine."

How true this is. We know how Hooker waged picturesque war above the clouds on Lookout Mountain.

These completed sketches will tell you the names of some who, in advance of the commanding general, first planted the old flag on the summit of those fearful heights.

THE ROCK OF CHICAMAUGA

We know for we have read it in current reminiscence, how brave Thomas stood like a rock, refusing to yield, on the bloody field of Chicamauga; here perchance we may catch the names of those he hither to unnamed, whose daring and

persistent courage won for him the glorious sobriquet he ever after bore.

We know in a general way something of the horrors of the loathsome deadly prison-pen; here we may learn the names of some who starved and suffered there; of those who dared escape and have the names of those who fleeing northward till in very sight of friends sank exhausted to the earth, run down by pursuing hounds.

Aye more, with half doubting eyes, our children turn from a perusal of their school histories to ask with whom WE served and where. You answer with McCellan in the deadly trenches along the James. Another answers, with Meade and Hancock on the historic heights of Gettysburg the Blenheim of the war.

Another says, with Grant down through the Wilderness, that tangled region of gloom and valley of death. I answer, with Sherman, the drumbeat of whose sixty-thousand through the Carolinas sounded the death knell of the rebellion. Then in innocent reproof the child asks why it never sees the names of those who marched, who toiled, who climbed over the battlements of grim McAllister.

SOLACE

There is solace in the thoughts that in the far off years to come, when perchance the last of these old boys shall have laid down in final surrender, those we loved and who loved us, may proudly turn these pages to learn the plain and simple story of their fathers' service in the days that tried men's souls.

May we not hope that when our children and our children's children shall come to read the individual records inscribed on the leaves of this book they may view with pardonable pride the humble part each of us took in that memorable struggle.

PRIDE

The comrades of Frank A. Haskell Post feel the proud distinction it is theirs to enjoy in receiving this beautiful and costly gift from the hands of the last survivor, save three, of a long line of distinguished war Governors.

This thought recalls the scenes and incidents of those long days. We recall how they were called to the executive chair those critics and trying times, when every thought was one of war; every supreme concern pertained to the equipment and forwarding of troops for the defense of an imperiled country.

WE REMEMBER

We remember your deep solicitude for the wounded on the field, the sick in hospitals. Yours was everywhere a familiar figure in the camp of Wisconsin troops, notwithstanding the exactions of official labours at home.

Be assured, Sir, those of us who are spared to this hour hold in grateful remembrance those acts of kindness, and while we live you will have a place of highest esteem in the hearts of those who enjoyed your comforting ministrations in war, and who in peace have received from your hands abundant evidence of your solicitude and affectionate regards."

VOLUNTEER REWARDS

At this point volunteer remarks were called for. After repeated calls upon him, Captain George M. Farnham of Chicago, who happened to be present, came forward and recited a parody on "Sherman's Ride," to the infinite delight of all present, after which the benediction was pronounced by the Reverend Wolverton of the M.E. Church.

The "Story of COLUMBUS"



By

F. A. STARE

INSTALLMENT NO. 378

Thursday, Dec. 18, 1958



THE BOOK AND ITS PURPOSE

From the preface of the beautiful volume presented by Governor Lewis, we make the following abstract setting forth its design and purpose.

Its design is to contain the record of the war services of the living and deceased members of this Post; the living to certify to the statements of their service; and the facts relating to the dead to be certified to by the Post historians.

The supplementary part of the volume is for a continuance of the personal sketches as occasion may require in the opinion of the post historian; also for the preservation of the names and record of other soldiers who enlisted from the immediate neighborhood.

Resolution pages are provided for containing the resolutions passed by the post upon the death of a member. Record of presentation page is designed to contain the action of the post upon receipt of the volume.

The Post should obtain permission of the donor for the insertion of a personal sketch, blank pages being provided for that purpose.

A sketch of the person after whom the post is named should also be prepared.

When the Post shall have surrendered its charter this volume can be preserved by the local municipality, if a suitable depository for the safe-keeping is provided or it can be preserved in the archives of the state.

And finally the volume is dedicated to the last surviving member of the Post.

SOME DAY

The writer hopes that some day, the expressed wishes of Governor Lewis, in his presentation, will be carried out, and the book will occupy a place of honor, perhaps in the Columbus Library, or the State Historical Society.

CAMP FIRE

Early in 1890 the Haskell Post held a "Camp Fire," as get-together meetings of soldiers were called. The Beaver Dam Daily, on March 7th published the following brief report, "The Camp Fire" was given by Frank A. Haskell Post, G.A.R. Columbus last Friday evening was an immense success, there being over 800 people in attendance. (Among them a number of Beaver Dam citizens were named.)

The local paper of May 30th 1890 gave a brief account of the Memorial Day services of the Frank A. Haskell Post at the Methodist church at which there were "three ministers each of whom spoke from 15 to 30 minutes.

Also apparently the principal speaker was Col. Rufus B. Smith, for while the item does not say so, a resolution was passed by the Post to Col. Smith for his speech.

The item states further, "The Post decorated the graves of the fallen comrades, with a list of twenty-six names, one of whom Waldo Field was a soldier of the war of 1812.

THE MONUMENT

Moving forward to late 1894, the monument

fund started in August had reached a figure of \$870.00 by November 30th. The Democrat of December 7th, 1894 under the heading of the Grand Army Boys, said Frank A. Haskell Post No. 146 G.A.R. held its annual election of officers and the transactions of business incident to a change of administration, last Saturday night, and as a result the Post will be officered the coming year as follows. Commander, George Weeks; Sr. Vice Commander, Elon Cripps; Jr., Vice Commander, August Fritz; Quarter Master, Frank A. Ross; Officer of the Day, Theron Edwards; Officer of the Guard, A. Borden; Chaplin, J. N. James; Surgeon, Henry Annis.

A committee of three members of the Post was chosen to select the design and contract for the soldiers monument, with two civilian members. The G.A.R. members were Commander Weeks, Quarter Master Ross, Chaplain James, and citizens. James T. Lewis and Lewis J. Sawyer. If there was a resolution passed, changing the name of the Post it was not mentioned in the item above given.

FIRST MENTION OF CHANGE OF NAME

First mention of a change of name of the Post was in an item in the Democrat of December 21st, 1894 in an article headed "Our Departed Heros." Saturday, last, the committee appointed to select and contract for the Soldier's Monuments; the growth of the fund for which has been watched with interest by our readers, reached a final conclusion as to the design and material, and awarded the contract for the same, to Messrs. Turner, Blumenthal and Miller, our marble dealers.

The monument will be of Barre, Vermont, granite, triple base, surmounted by two dies, a cap and a six foot figure of a soldier, "resting at will," upon his gun.

The sizes of the several bases, dies, etc., will be as follows.

Soldier 6 ft. high, Cap, 2 ft. 10 inches square and 18 inches high. Upper die, 2 ft. 4 inches square and 3 ft. 6 inches high, lower die 3 ft. square by 2 to 4 inches high; upper base 3 ft. 10 inches square by 1 ft. 2 inches high, lower base 4 ft. 4 inches square by 1 ft. 4 inches high.

There will be a total of 131 cubic feet of granite, besides the figure of the soldiers, in the monument. It's total height from the foundation will be 17 feet or about 20 feet from the level of the ground to the top of the figure.

Messrs., Turner, Blumenthal and Miller are magnanimous enough to provide the monument at exact cost to them, and will also bear entire cost of erecting the same.

It will not only a handsome one, but an enduring one, and will reflect great credit upon Harvey M. Brown Post, our beautiful city and those who so generously contributed to the fund for its purchase.

It is expected that the monument will be in place and ready for the unveiling next Memorial day, May 30, 1895.

The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."



By

F. A. STARE

Thursday, Dec. 25, 1958

INSTALLMENT NO. 379



ORIGINAL LOCATION

The monument was not erected in the cemetery as originally talked of, but on the boulevard, corner of School Street and Broadway, about where the flag pole now is, in front of the school. At a later date, after the monument sustained considerable damage, it was repaired and re-erected at its present location on the boulevard, now called Dickason, opposite the Library.

It was unveiled Memorial Day, 1895, as planned, the unveiling being done by Miss Dorothy (Dolly) Brown, now Mrs. Nelson Webster, daughter of Col. Harvey M. Brown, in whose memory the name of the G.A.R. Post was changed from Frank A. Haskell Post to Harvey M. Brown Post. While in the absence of Post record books, we cannot be positive of the dates, yet since published newspaper accounts of Post activities as late as December 7th, 1894, says, "Frank A. Haskell Post, No. 146 held its annual election of officers, etc.," and the first mention of "Harvey M. Brown Post, No. 146" was in the issue of the Democrat of December 21st, 1894, and there is no newspaper reference of any special meeting of the Post between those dates, it is a fair conclusion that the change in the Post name must have been made at the meeting of December 7th, 1894.

We are unable to find in newspapers any mention of the total amount raised for the monument, or of the cost of the same.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS

The membership of the post is not definitely known to the writer, but the names recorded in the gift book given to the Frank A. Haskell Post in 1890, show as only thirty-two, in the index, which may possibly have been somewhere near the total.

The post, presumably was active as could be expected from a steadily diminishing membership. In installment No. 334, December 5, 1957 a picture taken about 1925 of nine surviving comrades, was shown. The last survivor was Conrad Koblitz who died November, 1934.

The names carved on the Monument are soldiers from this area, who lost their lives in the Civil War, and whose bodies fill unnamed graves in the south.



The "Story of COLUMBUS . . ."

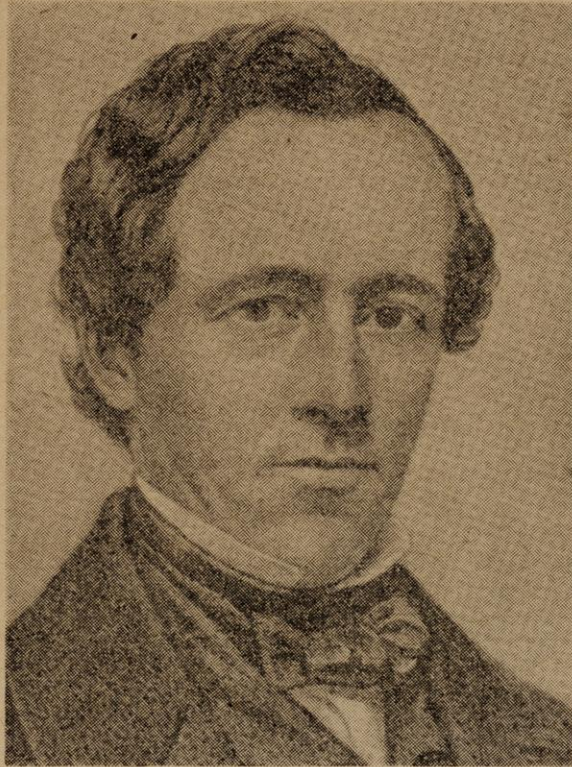


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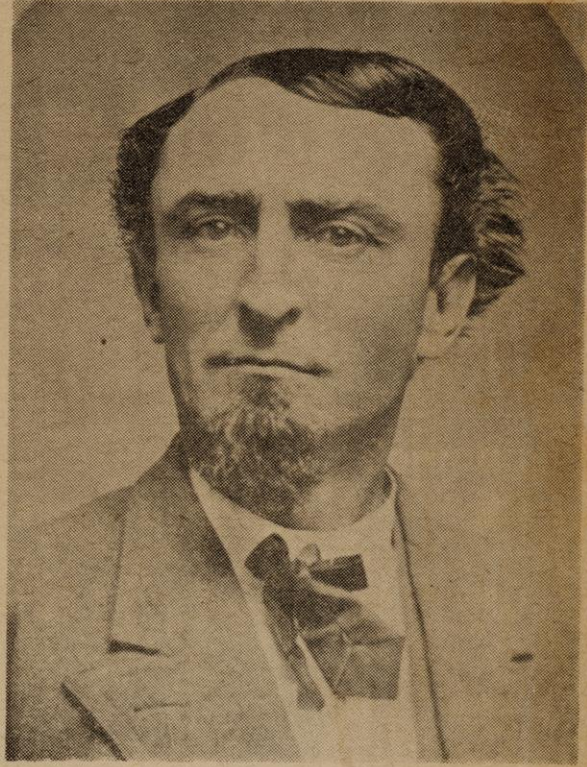
F. A. STARE

Thursday, Jan. 1, 1958

INSTALLMENT NO. 380



Col. Frank Aretas Haskell



Lt. Col. Harvey M. Brown

MONUMENT NOTES

Many hours, several days in fact, have been spent in interviewing many people, reading minutes of council meetings and searching the newspapers for items that would throw some light on the "damages" to the monument, how the money was raised to replace the "damages," when the monument was moved and at whose expense. After sifting out contradictory hear-say, we learned from John Brokopp, that the damages to the monument consisted of breaking off different pieces of the stone soldier, which was replaced by the present bronze, statue, but he could not pin point the year.

From George Holtz we learned that different members of the G.A.R. Post circulated subscriptions to raise the necessary funds to repair the damages.

Many others confirmed these established facts but could not name the year, the estimates running from 1907 to 1920.

This was enough to warrant more research which finally brought the following facts, verified by reading several hours of council proceedings and newspapers. Following the plan used in this column, "The Story of Columbus," we quote from Minutes of City Council, November 16th, 1915, "A petition of the G.A.R. Post was read as follows:

VETERANS REQUEST

"We the undersigned respectfully petition your honorable body, that permission be granted the G.A.R. Post of this City of Columbus to move the monument, now on Broadway opposite the High School building, upon the Public Library grounds of the City of Columbus. We are led

to make this request because of the general sentiment met with on taking up a collection to replace the broken parts of the monument, a majority of those with whom we have talked, being in favor of changing the location as above stated. —T. O. Edwards, Quartermaster, Harvey M. Brown Post 146, G.A.R."

The petition was referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Parks.

REQUEST APPROVED

From adjourned meeting of the Council, November 23rd, 1915, "The Committee reported favorably, and recommended that the monument face James street and that it be placed about midway between the sidewalk and the building, about two feet back of the Broadway front of the Library.

Upon vote Aldermen Kettelhon, Lawrence, Seide and Waterworth voted in favor; Aldermen Cook and Merriam not voting.

THEN DENIED

From minutes of December 7th 1915. "Mr. T. S. Maxwell, appeared before the Council in behalf of the Library Board relative to the action taken by the Council, November 23rd, giving permission to place the G.A.R. Monument upon the Library Grounds. After a brief discussion (presumably a change of mind of the Library board) Alderman Siede moved that the resolution passed by the Council on November 23rd, 1915, allowing the G.A.R. monument to be placed on the Library grounds, be reconsidered.

Upon motion Aldermen Cook, Merriam and Siede voted Aye; Aldermen Kettelhon, Lawrence and Waterworth not voting, thus killing the matter.



We show here the picture referred to above, taken about 1925. Their names are, left to right, front row: William G. Williams, Hugh Hall, Lansing Williams, Conrad Coblitz; back row, Elon Cripps, Julius Engelke, Mr. Pelham (father of Mrs. M. C. Palmer), Robert Bell and Theron Edwards.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8 — INSTALLMENT NO. 381

MAYOR UDEY

It was customary for the retiring mayor to make an annual report to the Council and for publication at the last meeting of the "old" Council.

From Mayor Udey's report, the concluding paragraph is quoted from proceedings of April 18, 1916.

"In closing I wish to thank the citizens of our city generally for their cooperation during the past year, and especially for the spirit shown in the support of the repairs of the Soldiers monument.

"This monument is a part of our city improvements, and while there is no fund provided for its maintenance, our citizens have been liberal in their support of the G.A.R. when it was necessary to ask for funds."

FURTHER RESEARCH

Our next research, naturally, was through the newspaper, for a few weeks or months preceeding the appearance before the council of the officers of the G.A.R.

In the issue of October 6, 1915, we found the following under the heading, "Threw stones at Soldiers Monument!"

"A dastardly deed was done recently which deserves the condemnation of all fair-minded people.

"A young miscreant, who certainly must have known better, wantonly and deliberately threw stones at the Soldiers monument, near the High School, very badly defacing and damaging it. In fact the arm of the heroic figure which was holding the gun, was broken off together with a part of the gun, and a piece of the shield of the cap on his head.

"It is asserted that the boy who committed the dastardly act is about twelve years of age, certainly old enough to have known better.

"Some seem to think an attempt has been made to hush the matter up. The old soldiers are justly indignant and feel that some action should be taken to bring the guilty one to account."

Careful research through three or four months of issues of the local paper fails to turn up another word about the matter.

A number of people have named the boy who threw the rocks, but some of them said it was snow balls. But since the item was in the paper of October 6th, 1915, and the damage had been done prior thereto, we doubt if enough snow could have fallen in late September or early October to make snow balls, we conclude that this particular battle was one of rocks or stones; also we have no doubt that over a period of many winters, more than a few snow ball battles had taken place with the monument as a central point.

Since the newspaper named no names, we will refrain from mentioning the boy's name, as hearsay evidence is not admissible, even though the boy mentioned, nor his family have not lived in Columbus since 1923.

We cannot conclude this story of the G.A.R. post monument still in front of the old High School.

A NEW PETITION FILED

Continuing our research, we find that at a meeting of the City Council June 6th, 1916, six months or more after the Council failed to grant the request of the G.A.R. in which interval there had been an election resulting in some new faces in the council chamber and Broadway had become a boulevard, another petition was presented and referred to the Committee on Public Buildings and Parks, in which the Post requested permission to place the monument near

the north end of the central parkway on Broadway near James Street.

The committee took plenty of time to consider the matter, and presumably sounded out and received a lot of public opinion, for then as now an aroused public speaks with a loud voice. Anyway the subject was not mentioned in council proceedings again until September 16th, 1916 when said committee reported "Your Committee on Public Buildings and Parks, to whom was referred the petition of the Veterans, etc., etc., respectfully report that they have had the matter under consideration, and recommend that the prayer of said petition be granted, but that the said monument be placed not less than twenty feet from the north end. Respectfully submitted J. H. Waterworth, Chas. Lawrence and F. Siede." Upon motion of Alderman Van Aken, the report was adopted, all members voting aye.

We discontinued research, concluding that the monument to the memory of the heroic dead from this area, who lie in southern cemeteries or in unknown graves, was moved to its present location within a short time after permission was granted, there to remain, undisturbed, to the end of time.

We have learned that the probable reason that no G.A.R. books of record can be found, other than the one big Album previously mentioned, is because, according to the statement of some sons and daughters of veterans, after the death of the last surviving comrade, all books of the Post are required to be sent in to National Headquarters. We cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statement, but will look no further, thus bringing to a close the story of our G.A.R. Post.

Col. Haskell Killed

The brigade commander was killed and Colonel Haskell assumed command, thus advancing Lt. Col. John Savage to Colonel and Major Harvey M. Brown of Columbus to Lieutenant Colonel.

Acting Brigadier General Haskell had just issued a command to his men to lie down to escape the scathing fire that was fast sweeping them away when he, himself, was shot dead with a bullet through the head. The 36th had 144 casualties killed and wounded.

Col. Savage - Lt. Col. Brown

Col. Savage was mortally wounded at Petersburg 15 days later and in the same charge Lt. Col. Brown received two wounds. He was left for dead upon the field, and lay for an entire day between the lines, while savage fighting was going on all around and over him.

His mangled body, almost lifeless was finally removed under cover of darkness. After days of indescribable suffering he regained sufficient strength to be returned to his home in Columbus where he eventually recovered.

Capt. Warner, who led the charge previously mentioned, ranking Captain, moved up to be Colonel of the 36th.

Frank A. Haskell Post 146, Columbus

Thus it was, we firmly believe, because of the brief but close relationship between them, that when the G.A.R. Post 146, first called Columbus Post, was formed, Col. Brown taking a prominent part in its organization in 1884, suggested the name of his former Col. Frank A. Haskell, filling a hero's grace at Silver Lake Cemetery, Portage, Columbia County, for whom to name the post.

Then after the death of Col. Brown about ten years later, his comrades of the post changed the name to that of Harvey M. Brown, the ranking local hero. No other explanation seems possible.

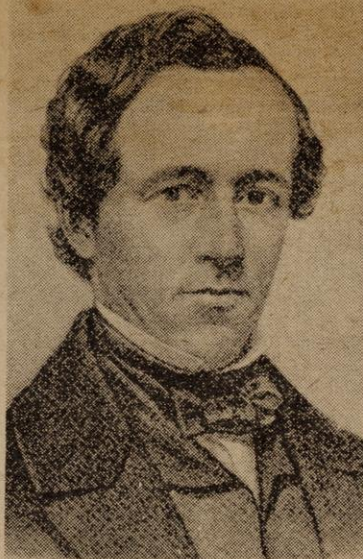
Frank Aretas Haskell

In an attempt to write a suitable sketch, after picking up what little information we could, from the war records of Columbia and Dane Counties, we contacted Wisconsin State Historical Society, which has frequently been of great help so we were able to add a few facts.

We had previously learned from Dane County History of 1880 that Frank Haskell enlisted from the 3rd Ward, Madison, Wisconsin, and also that his law partner, J. P. Atwood, had also enlisted at the same time, June 20th, 1861, in Company I of the 6th Wisconsin. His partner J. P. Atwood was commissioned Lt. Colonel of the 6th and Frank Haskell 1st Lieutenant of Company I, but became regimental Adjutant soon after.

Historical Society

From a letter from the Historical Society we quote, "There is no biography of Frank A. Haskell, and

**Frank A. Haskell**

the sketch in the Catton edition contains about as much as is known concerning him."

"From the 1858-59 Madison City Directory, Mr. Haskell was living in the American House (sometimes called American Hotel) located at the northwest corner of Pinckney and Washington.

"His office, Atwood and Haskell, was advertised as Office No. 1 Bruen's Block, (second floor) which stood on the opposite corner of Pinckney and Washington, where the First National Bank now is. The American House was where American Exchange Bank now is.

"Since there is no mention of a wife anywhere, in City Directory, census or other, we would conclude that he was unmarried."

For the assistance rendered by the State Historical Society, we are deeply grateful.

Catton Edition

The sketch referred to in the Catton edition refers to an edition of "The Battle of Gettysburg" written by Frank Haskell, only a few weeks after the battle, being his own account of what he personally

**Harvey M. Brown**

saw, edited by Bruce Catton, with comments in the form of foot notes. We have read the book, as well as a number of book reviews, in various newspapers and periodicals, and found it all that the reviewers say, and more.

From all of this we learn that Frank A. Haskell was born in Tunbridge, Vermont, in 1828. He was graduated from Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire in the class of 1854. In the fall shortly after graduation he came to Wisconsin, probably visited his older brother Harrison A. Haskell, County Treasurer of Columbia County, at Portage, Wisconsin, and possibly upon his advice located at Madison, where he began the practice of law.

Just when the partnership of J. P. Atwood and Frank A. Haskell began, we can only guess. The firm was listed as early as April 1856, and lasted until both partners enlisted in 1861.

There were 38 lawyers listed as of 1857 (see page 731, Dane County History (1880,) State Historical Society.

Adjutant

The Wisconsin 6th was composed of men from all parts of the state. The companies were called to Camp Randall, Madison June 25th, 1861. Gov. Randall commissioned Lysander Cutter as Colonel; Julius P. Atwood, Lieutenant Colonel; B. J. Sweet, Major; Frank A. Haskell, adjutant.

The men were fully equipped by the state, with the exception of arms. The regimental organization was soon completed and the regiment, 1,045 strong, was mustered into the United States service on the 16th of July. On the 28th they broke camp, left the state and proceeded to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where they remained until August 3rd, 1861, when they were entrained arriving in Baltimore, making camp in a park until August 7th, when they were sent to Washington, where they encamped on Meridian Hill. On September 3rd they were marched to the Chain Bridge and joined other Wisconsin Regiments, becoming a part of the Iron Brigade, one of the most outstanding units in the Union Army, which included the 2nd, 6th and 7th Wisconsin Infantry regiments, to which, later a regiment of Indiana infantry was added.

The Iron Brigade

The name "Iron Brigade" is said to have been earned at South Mountain in 1862, when General George B. McCellan asked a subordinate the designation of troops which were advancing under murderous fire.

General Hooker, who had just arrived on the scene, announced them as Giggon's Brigade from Wisconsin and Indiana. General McCellan expressed his opinion of the men by suggesting that "They must be made of iron."

"By G - - ! They are iron." Hooker replied.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 — INSTALLMENT NO. 384

First in Wisconsin 6th

Lieutenant Haskell had become adjutant when the 6th was organized, and when General Gibbon was placed in charge of the brigade of three, then four, regiments, he promptly made Haskell his Aide and adjutant.

He gained experience under Brigadier General John Gibbon, a West Point graduate, a young man in his mid-thirties, assigned to General McDowell's division of the Army of the Potomac, going into camp at Fort Tillinghast, on Arlington Heights, half a mile west of Arlington House, then the late residence of General Robert E. Lee, Commander-in-Chief of the Confederate Army. Then they were placed in the rear of the great line of fortifications on that side of the Potomac, and only seven miles from the rebel outposts.

Their early experience as a brigade was in the Second Bull Run, South Mountain, and Antietam. Later in 1862 when General Gibbon became commander of a division, he took Lt. Haskell with him through Fredricksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg, and it was in the latter three day action he "won not only General Gibbon's professional admiration" but his personal affection as well.

Battle of Gettysburg

We quote from Mr. Bruce Catton's brief biography in the book previously mentioned, "The Battle of Gettysburg," edited by Mr. Catton. "In Gibbon's report on Gettysburg, he wrote that 'Haskell had distinguished himself in every battle by his conspicuous coolness and bravery, 'and added that' it has always been a source of regret to me that our military system offers no plan for rewarding his merit and services as they deserve.'"

"Gibbon long afterward wrote, 'I have always thought that to him, (Haskell) more than to any one man, we are indebted for the repulse of Lee's assault (Pickett's Charge). His personal gallantry

in aiding the officers in re-forming their out-powered troops was seen and commented upon by many, while his quick judgment in using his authority as a staff officer of his absent general, in moving assistance to critical points, was admirable.'

"Only a short time after the Battle of Gettysburg, a matter of only a few weeks, Haskell wrote his account of the battle, while it was still fresh in his mind. He may not have had any idea of publication, or he may have had. He sent it to his brother (Harrison S. Haskell of Portage) for safe keeping."

Various Book Reviews

The following are quotes from several reviews of his recently published book, by Houghton-Mifflin and edited by Bruce Catton.

Wisconsin State Journal

May 25, 1958

"Haskell's work long has been known as a classic. Its printing and circulation have been limited, however, and this is the first time that it has been made available to the general public. Frank Haskell was an aide on a crops Commander's staff at Gettysburg. He wrote while the heat of battle was still upon him within two weeks after Pickett's charge. He wrote as a Union soldier, a partisan. Some of his judgments are overly harsh, yet as Bruce Catton says in his introduction, Haskell had the writing talent "to convey the look and the sound and the feel of what he had been through."

Time Magazine, May 19, 1958

From the Union lines, behind the stone wall on the crest of Cemetery Ridge, First Lieut. Frank A. Haskell looked down on the forming ranks of the Confederacy; "More than half a mile their front extends; more than a thousand yards the dull grey masses deploy, man touching man, rank pressing rank, and line supporting line. The red flags wave, their horsemen gallop up and down; the arms of eighteen thousand men, barrel and bayonet,

gleam in the sun, a sloping forest of flashing steel. Right on they move, as with one soul, in perfect order, without impediment of ditch, or wall or stream, over ridge and slope, through orchard and meadow, and cornfield, magnificent, grim, irresistible."

Magnificent, grim irresistible — these were the gaunt men in grey on the third desperate day of battle near Gettysburg, charging into history under Major General George Pickett. Their objective was the stone wall in the center of the Union lines, where Staff Lieut. Haskell and the veterans of the II Corps stood waiting, watching. It was strangely quiet: "The click of the locks as each man raised the hammer to feel with his fingers that the cap was on the nipple; the sharp jar as a musket touched a stone upon the wall when thrust in aiming over it; and the clicking of the iron axles as the guns were rolled up by hand a little further to the front, were quite all the sounds that could be heard."

Young Wisconsin Lawyer Haskell could fight—and write. He played a distinguished personal part in repelling Pickett's Charge, and weeks later, the fever of battle still hot in him, he wrote his account of Gettysburg. It is the classic of its kind. Previously snatched up in limited editions as a buff's bonanza, and quoted by virtually all scholars of the battle for its vivid closeups of the thick of things, it now comes for the first time to the popular Civil War book market. The original gets tasteful, unobtrusive editing by Bruce (A Stillness at Appomattox) Catton. For all Haskell's unusual talent, The Battle of Gettysburg was his only literary work. Just eleven months after he wrote his story of the most famous charge in U.S. history, Frank Haskell, by then a colonel, was among the 40,000 men whom Ulysses S. Grant flung headlong against the unyielding Confederate lines at Cold Harbor. He was also among the 7,000 who died.

**From Milwaukee Journal of
August 17, 1958**

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG. By Frank Aretas Haskell. Edited by Bruce Catton. Houghton Mifflin, \$3.50.

TOWARD GETTYSBURG: A BIOGRAPHY OF GEN. JOHN F. REYNOLDS. By Edward J. Nichols, Pennsylvania State University Press, \$6.

THE GUNS AT GETTYSBURG. By Fairfax Downey. McKay, \$5.

DEATH OF A NATION: THE STORY OF LEE AND HIS MEN AT GETTYSBURG. By Clifford Dowdey. Knopf, \$5.

The world, said Abraham Lincoln dedicating the cemetery at Gettysburg, "will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here." He was, of course, half wrong. The world remembers well what he said, but he was half right: The world has never forgotten what the men did there. From the moment of the battle they have recounted the story, from many angles, and engaged in controversies over the judgments displayed and the actions taken.

Wisconsin's Frank Haskell wrote first, and probably best.

The first account, and probably the best ever written about an American battle, was the story told by Wisconsin's Frank Haskell, a lieutenant on the staff of the commander of the famed Iron Brigade. A few weeks after the battle Haskell sent the description to his brother in Portage, and 15 years later the brother printed it in pamphlet form. In 1898 it appeared as a part of the history of the Dartmouth college class of 1854; then it appeared in Massachusetts, (military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in 1908) then the Wisconsin history commission (published it in full in an unabridged version edition of 2500 copies) it appeared in "The Harvard Classics," (vol. 43, in 1910) and later in a Pennsylvania newspaper (The Titusville Herald in 1937, a limited edition). Despite this record of republication, editor Bruce Catton thinks it was relatively unknown to the "general reader." Actually, of course, it was well known in its field, and no writer of any substance on Gettysburg has failed to give it attention.

Nevertheless, it is well worth reprinting. "Haskell could write," says Catton, and he had the talent to convey the "look and the sound and the feel" of the battle.

And write he could, indeed. "We saw the missiles tear and plow the ground," said Haskell as he described the artillery duel on the second day of Gettysburg. "All in rear of the crest for a thousand yards as well as among the batteries was the field of their blind fury. Ambulances, passing down the Taneytown rd. with wounded men, were struck. The hospitals near this road were riddled. Riderless horses, galloping madly through the fields were brought up, or down rather, by these invisible horse tamers, and they would not run any more. . . . The per-

cussion shells would strike, and thunder, and scatter the earth with their whistling fragments; the Whitworth bolts would pound and ricochet, and bowl far away sputtering, with the sound of a mass of hot iron plunged in water; and the great, solid shot would smite the unresisting ground with a sounding 'thud,' as the strong boxer crashes his iron fist into the jaws of his unguarded adversary. . . . Our artillerymen upon the crest budged not an inch, nor intermitted, but though caisson and lumber were smashed, and guns dismantled, and men and horses killed, there amidst smoke and sweat they gave back, without grudge, or loss of time in the sending, in kind whatever the enemy sent, globe an dcone, and bolt, hollow or solid, and iron greeting to the rebellion, the compliments of the wrathful republic."

But Haskell was not merely writing, he was giving an analysis of the battle. He found Gen. Daniel Sickles a gross blunderer and a fourflusher, but this was a judgment few questioned. More serious was the umbrage which Philadelphia veterans took at Haskell's description of how, when Pickett's men broke through the portion of the line that Philadelphia held, Haskell rushed into the breach, rallied the fleeing men and saved the day!

Haskell died at Cold Harbor, a fatality that cut short a career which had borne promise of making him one of Wisconsin's most distinguished citizens. (He had been a young lawyer at Madison when the war broke out.) The aspersions on Pennsylvania valor and the high excellence of his account combine to keep the world from forgetting "what they did" there.

It was indeed a great battle. It began when Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, regular army officer, determined to stand and challenge the advance of Lee. Reynolds was not a great man, but he was a well trained, experienced soldier to whom Lincoln had probably offered the command of the army of the Potomac before giving it to Meade. Reynolds' biographer makes him appear a competent, if not very dramatic, officer. But he, too, died (at Gettysburg) before fame reached him.

But even the biography of a man who merely started the battle has moment in the consideration of the war's crucial engagement. Fairfax Downey has enumerated the 129 batteries of artillery with their guns—272 Confederate and 302 Federal which engaged in the duel which Haskell described. Collectors of ancient arms will be interested in his account of the tactics of the artillery and of the manipulation of the batteries. But for the most part, the artillery expert avoids passing judgment on the

commanders and the conduct of the battle.

Not so restrained is Clifford Dowdey, who contends that more than lives were lost at Gettysburg. It witnessed the death of the Confederacy, and the author spares no judgments in condemning Longstreet, Pickett and even Lee for their performances. There was, incidentally, a Confederate Haskell, a South Carolinian with a distaste for Virginians, who left the story that Pickett and his officers huddled in a barn when his men made their brave and hopeless charge. But this was not the only criticism of the conduct of the Confederates. Lee's artillery commander was a good Episcopal rector with no capacity for command; Longstreet was sullenly negligent to the point of insubordination. Jeb Stuart, of course, was far away. There was no end of errors on the part of the Confederates and the final judgment seems to be that, with all their bungling, they did not deserve to win either the battle or the war.

A year ago a couple of World War II generals walked over the battlefield after lunch and announced that they would have fired both the opposing commanders. This is the kind of inexpert snap judgment which—if they had been guilty of it their own military careers—would have warranted their prompt removal from command. And yet, when the experts get through with the details of the tainly they support Mr. Lincoln—hasty judgments of Messrs. Eisenhower and Montgomery. And certainly they support Mr. Lincoln—the world will not forget the deeds of the men at Gettysburg!

WILLIAM B. HESSELTINE

Conclusion

Readers of this Column, "The Story of Columbus," should take great pride in knowing something more about the hero after whom the G.A.R. Post of this city was named, for even if Frank A. Haskell was never a resident of Columbus there is some "reflected glory" in the fact that his brother Harrison S. Haskell was once a prominent and useful citizen here.

And that in giving the name of Frank A. Haskell to the Post (without doubt upon the suggestion of Harvey M. Brown) they gave it the name of a man in every way worthy of the honor, for as Prof. Hesseltine wrote, "Haskell died at Cold Harbor, a fatality that cut short a career which had borne promise of making him one of Wisconsin's most distinguished citizens."

We trust that our readers have been sufficiently impressed that they will want to read the story of the "Battle of Gettysburg" written by Mr. Haskell, one of the most absorbing this writer has ever read.

More About Editor H. D. Bath

In installment No. 374, November 6th, 1958, we printed a sort of introduction, including a brief biography, of Henry D. Bath, intending to follow through for some weeks, with excerpts from his newspaper, the Columbus Democrat, similar to the latter portion of No. 374 which gave an account of school visitations by Reverend Levy Bath, who was County Superintendent of Schools at that time, as well as minister of the Baptist Church, which was the building now occupied by the Columbus Garment Co.

However, after publishing the one installment mentioned, we decided to withhold further installments until later, and run the story of the Grand Army Post and the story of Frank A. Haskell, for whom the Post was named, instead.

This having been done, we now resume the interrupted series, which we trust will prove of interest to our readers. Please keep in mind that the items, and articles are of 1869, ninety years ago.

Time To Pay Taxes

Taxes for 1868—from Columbus Democrat of December 17, 1868:

That annual period which is sure to come, as the hour of dissolution, and which many dread with a feeling scarcely less lively, has arrived.

The tax gatherer, Mr. James Lowth, is on the yearly path, and is thrusting the long finger of the state into the general pocketbook to an extent that is making that rather ideal corporation not at all popular.

The fact, however, should be remembered that a delay in payment until after the first of January, increases "the fees of collection" from two percent to five percent.

Actual Value

We notice that the assessment

Some Taxess Disclosed

Among the personal we notice the annexed:

R. W. Chadbourn, banker	\$32,700	\$285.93
Bassett, Davis & Co., merchant	28,000	244.83
Fuller Bros., merchant	9,000	78.69
Eugene Griswold, merchant	9,000	78.69
Hazelton & Johnson, merchant	8,400	73.45
Henry A. Whitney, merchant	25,000	218.60
Joseph Schaefer, merchant	8,000	69.95
M. Starkweather, builder	8,580	75.02
Vogl & Furst	8,000	69.95
John Topp, Merchant	8,000	69.95
Smith & Lewis	8,000	69.95
D. F. Newcomb	8,000	69.95
James F. Lewis, lawyer	8,900	71.70
Sawyer Bros., merchant	4,000	34.94
J. R. Wheeler, banker	2,500	21.85
H. Waterhouse, farmer	4,500	39.35
John Williams, druggist	2,850	24.92
John Swartout, druggist	1,800	15.74
Dodge Bros., merchant	6,500	48.09
John Priem, merchant	2,670	23.34
Hannemann & Co.	2,500	21.85

(Where business or profession is known it is being added by the writer of the Story of Columbus.)

this year is largely in excess of that of 1867. The principal on which it was made under the new law, was to take the actual valuation and reduce it to a gold basis.

The total assessment of the property in this township for 1867 was \$614,000 and the total tax was \$15,165.66.

This year the total assessment is \$1,588,885.00 of which \$1,105,055 is upon real estate and \$483,830 is upon personal property (anything movable).

School Tax Low

The school district tax for the whole township is \$3,521.40. The state, county, county school and town tax, which by the recent law are figured together is \$13,554.99, of which the real estate pay \$9,383.51 and the personal \$4,171.48.

The rate of taxation is \$8.74 on \$1,000. We are indebted to Squire Hoppin our efficient town clerk, for an opportunity to obtain from the books, the foregoing, and the following figures, and we copy therefrom some of the heaviest assessments.

Among the real estate assessment, we notice the following:	
Nic Feelatter, farmer	\$21,400
H. Grieve, Hotel Whitney	8,000
T. Clerk Smith, farmer	12,800
O. R. Luey, farmer	6,400
Zenas Robbins, farmer	5,500
Asa Perkins, farmer	5,600
Elisha Lyons, farmer	6,400
J. W. Leffingwell, farmer	7,000
Lucius Fuller, farmer	6,400
Geo. W. Campbell, butcher	5,600
Robert Gamidge, farmer	8,000
T. Smith, farmer	5,100
John Laskey, farmer	5,280
George Griswold, residence	5,400
A. G. Cook, residence	5,400
James T. Lewis, residence	6,000
Fred Farnham, residence	7,000
Elisha Butterfield, residence	4,000
Nelson Sawyer, residence	2,200
J. S. Manning, residence	5,000
William L. Lewis, residence	4,500

The collection of taxes is now fairly begun and the treasurer may be found at Swarthouts Drug Store. (Now Kalk Drug Store.)

Review of Fright Shipments

In the paper of January 14th, 1869, we note a review of "Receipts and Shipments" of some of the important commodities that moved out of Columbus, as well as some in-bound items, that should be of interest to present day readers, which we quote.

"Through the courtesy of the very gentlemanly and efficient agent at this depot, Mr. O. E. Cornwell, we are enabled to obtain access to the books, and present our readers with some interesting statistics relating to the business done at the station during 1869.

The following statement shows out-bound shipment of flour (milled at Columbus) during each month.

January	200 bbls.
February	100 bbls.
March	1100 bbls.
April	850 bbls.
May	700 bbls.
June	100 bbls.
July	71 bbls.
Aug. - Sept. - Oct.	none
November	100 bbls.
December	406 bbls.
Total	3627 bbls.

The following table shows the movement of wheat outbound during each month in the past year, but it should be remembered that the unusual depression in the market for wheat has greatly retarded sales.

Hope For Higher Prices

Since the new crop was fairly harvested, farmers have been continually possessed of the idea that prices would grow better, and there is now a vast amount of unmarketed wheat in this vicinity, which is already coming freely, and which really belong to the shipments of the past year.

(In the same issue the market price paid locally was No. 1 wheat \$1.00 per bushel and 90 cents for No. 2; Barley was \$1.25 to \$1.70 according to grade.)

It should also be mentioned that several of our dealers have bought large amounts at other stations, not included in the table.

Wheat Shipped Out

January	14,377 bushels
February	7,796 bushels
March	3,329 bushels
April	15,348 bushels
May	29,802 bushels
June	13,285 bushels
July	3,168 bushels
August	12,472 bushels
September	57,565 bushels
October	31,666 bushels
November	13,342 bushels
December	20,303 bushels
Total	222,447 bushels

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19 — INSTALLMENT NO. 387

Shipments of barley during the year were very light, reaching only 3,931 bushels; shipment of livestock were 1203 cattle, 142 sheep, 1,008 hogs; and 286,760 pounds of dressed hogs.

Of miscellaneous freight there were shipped 604,050 pounds: of wool 71,260 pounds; of butter 21,500 pounds; of hides 79,370 pounds.

Of potatoes there were 2510 bushels; of grass seeds 2388 bushels; and of beans 866 bushels.

The receipts of lumber were 330 car loads as follows: Long and Henderson 117 carloads; A. D. Bond 110 carloads; R. D. VanAken 48 carloads; and by other parties 55 carloads.

Messrs. Long and Henderson inform us that it is their estimate that they have sold 1,500,000 board feet of lumber last year.

The total freight received at this depot during the year was 13,693,430 pounds, on which the freight charges collected were \$30,502.60. Rather a large quantity to be used and consumed by the people of Columbus and vicinity.

Travel By Railroad

As it may be of interest to our readers to draw comparisons in regard to the amount of travel that issues from this depot during the several months of the year, we append the annexed statement of the amounts paid for tickets. The sums under the word coupons are the amounts paid for tickets for trips beyond the St. Paul Road, and under the head of Local, for tickets on that road exclusively.

Month	Coupons	Local
January	\$ 130.90	\$ 365.10
February	278.10	407.05
March	333.40	533.30
April	200.75	508.45
May	134.44	510.55
June	206.80	672.20
July	112.15	417.25
August	517.25	783.80
September	389.95	536.40
October	668.85	793.65
November	269.45	556.90
December	81.00	513.45

TOTAL \$3,314.35 \$6,648.30

During the month of August there were sold to hop pickers excursion tickets to the amount of \$789.10; and in September to the amount of \$99.95. A total of 485 hop pickers left this station. Excursion tickets are not figured in the totals given.

Note: (The station or depot referred to is the long narrow brick building along the tracks at the

foot of Dickason Boulevard, which now belongs to the Caldwell Lumber Company.)

More About Country Schools

In the same issue is another full column "Among the Schools" from which we have condensed the essential details.

District No. 4, Fountain Prairie: Teacher Mr. Eli Grant teaching his 12th winter term and rendering excellent service; 69 names on the register; spent the night at home of Mr. Brace. Next day No. 8 in town of Courtland, a fine new school: Mr. A. H. Grant teacher. Appearances indicated successful work. 57 names on the register.

"In this district 'we' met with a little incident which served to break the monotony of our everyday work. We met in the road, a son of Erin, who seemed to have a peculiar tangle in his legs. We invited him to a seat in our buggy. After praising the horse, he expressed surprise that we were not at the dance the night before.

He said they were having a "little Christmas" and his breath gave evidence that he, at least, was making the most of the occasion."

District No. 8 in Courtland was being taught by Miss Kate Griffin; school in excellent condition. The school house rather too small, but doing well; 63 names on the register.

Next was Randolph Center where he spent the night at home of Mr. Finney; visited the school next morning, a fine new building furnished with "patent seats," school had everything that could be desired. Teacher was Mr. Darling, a young man of fine ability; 51 names on the register.

District 10 town of Randolph: Mr. H. C. Hudson doing good work, but a new building badly needed. Until this is done the school can never be a perfect success; 34 names on the register.

Reached district No. 1 in afternoon. Here Miss Howard is teaching. There has been a little friction here. We did not search for trouble, so found none. Hope the district will harmonize and sustain a good school. 25 names on register.

Passed the night at house of Mr. Grover. "At early dawn and in the face of a pitiless snow storm we started for district No. 3 in the town of Courtland. Miss Wilson, a lady of good ability is teaching here; 54 names on register.

"After spending a couple of hours, receiving a kind welcome to

a princely dinner at the home of Mr. Rust, the clerk of the district; we made our way home—thirty miles of travel through a blinding snow storm, may be noted as among some of the pleasant reminiscences of a County School Superintendent's useful life."

Mr. W. D. Hoard

Many of our present day citizens are probably not aware of the fact that Mr. W. D. Hoard, later to become a Governor of Wisconsin, was once a citizen of Columbus for a few years. His arrival here may have been some time in January 1869 for his name appears in the list of un-called for letters published quite frequently in the local papers, of which there were two, the Democrat, of which back numbers are available in bound copies, and the Republican, of which unbound issues are stored in the Library, awaiting some way to find the money to have them bound.

The list in the Democrat of January 14th, 1869, published by Mr. Bath, is as follows: E. Barbridge, P. Gray, W. D. Hoard, H. B. Knapp, F. Lynch, F. Las Thorne, E. Meland and L. G. Sheppard.

Briefly Mr. Hoard whose biography will be written up subsequently, when we shall have gathered sufficient information, started his sojourn here as a teacher of vocal music having organized a class here shortly after his arrival, but also became engaged in other more remunerative work a little later.

A Sunday School Sleigh Ride

From the issue of January 14th, "On Tuesday, last, the scholars of the Methodist Episcopal S. S. in this village, were given a ride to Beaver Dam. The morning was truly a magnificent one, the excessive cold of the preceeding day being much moderated.

The sun shone without a cloud, and the air was full of life and health. Twenty teams were brought into requisition, and 75 to 80 pupils and teachers composed the party. It started at 10 o'clock, and was met just at this side of Beaver Dam by the superintendent of the M.E. Sunday school there, and escorted to the church where the two schools took dinner, together, returning at 5 o'clock.

We understand that the Methodist Sunday School of Columbus, under the superintendence of Mr. E. J. Miller, is in flourishing condition, and is the agency of much good. There are, we are told, 112 names upon the rolls."



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 — INSTALLMENT NO. 388

The Rt. Rev. William E. Armistage, Bishop of Wisconsin, assisted by Messrs. Wilkinson of Milwaukee and Drafter of Watertown, will hold Episcopal Services at the Congregational Church on Tuesday evening, January 17th, 1869.

(The Congregational Church at that time, was the apartment House at the corner of Mill street and Dickason Boulevard, across the street from Walker Lumber Co., which ceased to be a church and became an agricultural machinery store about 1874.)

Two Marriages

Married at the residence of the bride's father in the city of Beaver Dam, January 11th, 1869, by Rev. L. Bath, of Columbus, Mr. Irving Bath of Berlin, to Miss Emma L. Chatfield, of Beaver Dam.

And at the residence of E. E. Chapin, Esq., Columbus, January 12th, 1869, by Rev. L. Bath Mr. O. S. Rathbun, of St. Joseph, Missouri, to Miss Carrie C. Blanchard, of Columbus.

Death

We believe that Mr. George Monarch of the township of Columbus, who died Saturday, last, was the oldest man in the township, he having reached the mature age of eighty-eight.

He was buried Tuesday, the funeral services being conducted in the Presbyterian Church (which is now the duplex home at 239 South Dickason.)

A sturdy native of Old Scotia, he had resided in the township, we are told, 17 years; and we hear him spoken of in high terms.

He leaves a widow of 82, who is still able to do a walk of five miles without difficulty.

A sturdy cattle drover in this township stripped himself to the knees this morning after the last snow storm and ran fifty rods barefooted in snow to the knees, on a wager, and to recall the innocent amusements of childhood.

An Epidemic of Sleigh Rides

In this age of paved roads, autos, T.V. and what not, it is somewhat refreshing to "oldsters" to recall the days of our youth before there were telephones, electric lights or even "nickelodians," and the simple sports of our own efforts.

We have previously called attention to one sleighing party, and we now lift a half column from Mr. Bath's issue of the Democrat

of January 21, 1869, under the heading of Sleigh Rides.

"On Friday evening of last week the Polymnia Society, by invitation made up a sleighing party and visited the residence of Mr. James Webster in the town of Elba, in force. (Mr. Webster was the grandfather of Mrs. A. H. Proctor.)

"We doubt if ever that spacious red brick mansion was so thoroughly filled since the occasion of its original warming if indeed it was then.

"Eight double teams, one four horse 'establishment' and several single conveyances were of the party, which numbered an exact one hundred; and one entire load was composed of ladies whose husbands are not festively inclined and seldom appear at such times.

"After an hour or two socially passed, the recall was sounded, and we have to record as the only casualty of the evening, the sudden inversion of the four horse conveyance on the return home, in which were carefully adjusted at the moment, twenty-two revelers, all unconscious of impending catastrophe. They came to the surface simultaneously, and each grasped with singular uniformity for a handful of snow with which to steady himself or herself. Fortunately no one was seriously injured.

"Everybody now seems to regard the improvement of the present excellent sleighing in the light of all descriptions. On Saturday, are alive with hurrying turn-outs of all descriptions. On Saturday, last, the Sabbath schools of both the Universalists and Presbyterian societies were out for pleasure rides much to the apparent enjoyment of the pupils.

"On Saturday, next, weather permitting, the Congregational school is to have a similar ride.

"The members of the Once-a-Week Society to the number of thirty-three persons, went to Beaver Dam yesterday on a sleigh ride. Their humor on arriving at the Clark House took the channel of facetious registration on the hotel register, which is said to have exhibited a pleasing diversity after the party had written themselves down.

"A score or more of the matrons of Waterloo, unable to entice their lords from business, projected a sleigh ride on their own account, and visited our village on Saturday last, and stopped at the Whit-

ney House. (Our hotel in what is now the Blackhawk Tavern.)

"A sleighing party of seventy from Waupun is expected at Beaver Dam tonight."

Dog Law At Fall River

town meeting of Fountain Prairie pursuant to notices posted according to law, at the school house in the village of Fall River on

February 11, 1869—At a special the 6th day of February, 1869, H. C. Brace, chairman of the board of supervisors, presided and declared the purpose of the meeting, to determine whether the dog license law will be dropped or enforced in that township.

And if dropped then to authorize the town treasurer to refund the money now in his hands, received from said licenses.

The following resolution was offered after several speeches and a great many ill-timed remarks, there being about two hundred voters present, most of whom were dog owners.

"Resolved, as the sense of this meeting, the present dog license law is odious and high disagreeable, and we as a town recommend the discontinuance of its operation in the town and further we recommend to the town treasurer of this town to refund the license money already collected to the individuals that have paid the same this year, and we hereby pledge ourselves, as a town, to indemnify the treasurer for all costs and expenses he may incur in carrying out the sense of this resolution."

The resolution was put and carried almost unanimously, there being only three or four voting against it.

The law was then read and it became apparent after some explanation, that there was no way or mode of evading the law at present, and the treasurer was requested to proceed and enforce the license on each owner or keeper of a dog.

On the whole it was a pleasant gathering and the occasion of a great deal of humor. It had, moreover, the effect of breaking out snowed in roads that would otherwise have remained unopened for some time, as it is believed that there were more people in Fall River on Saturday than on any other day during the year.

(Considerable research fails to turn up any details as to the Dog Tax Law, other than the \$2.00 cost of a License was about as unpopular as a \$2.00 poll tax is in some states even now.)

Local Politics

Up until the Republican party had been organized in a school house (still preserved and occupying a prominent site) in Ripon a decade before the Civil War, Columbus had been about half Whig, half Democrat. The new party added a new element, drawing largely from the Whigs, but also from those Democrats who did not approve of slavery, with the result that for a brief period a "Union" party looked promising.

In fact, James T. Lewis, of Columbus, was elected Governor of Wisconsin during the latter part of the Civil War, under the Union banner, which covered Whigs, Republicans and "Northern" Democrats, meaning opposed to slavery.

The local newspaper from 1855 up to about the end of 1863, The Columbus Journal, was Republican in politics, the earlier Columbus Reporter, democratic, had suspended about 1853, and opened again at Blue Earth, Minnesota.

And even though the Transcript had been Republican it failed to get enough support to continue to pay its bills.

The Columbus Republican

The Columbus Republicans, taken by surprise, when the rug was so rudely jerked out from under them, soon recovered their balance and secured a paper of their own political belief, The Columbus Republican, Vol. 1, No. 1 of which was issued October 7th, 1868, only 27 days after Mr. Bath's first Democrat came off the press.

Columbia County History Says

Because it reflects more clearly what the general public thought, written, no doubt, by some one who knew the situation at the time, we are quoting from page 544 of the Columbia County History published in 1880, as follows:

"In the presidential campaign of 1868, by an adroit maneuver of the Democracy, the material (press and type) of the Transcript changed hands, and with it a Democratic sheet was started. This was less than eight weeks before the election, and the political cauldron was boiling fiercely. There was a strong Republican majority in town and county, and a Democratic paper would not go down and set well on a Republican stomach.

John R. Decker

"J. R. Decker was at the time publishing the Waupun Times, but such inducements were made that he sold out the paper and came to Columbus, his route being by way of Chicago, where he bought an entire new printing office, including a job press, something

novel in Columbus.

"The office was established on the second floor of the Shaeffer Block (half way down James street about where Western Auto Store is) which proved to be too small, and it was moved to a ground floor fronting on Ludington street.

"The paper was a seven column folio (four pages) ably edited and handsomely printed; several pilthy able local writers contributing copy liberally and giving the new paper a boost through the few weeks before election."

What Inducements?

The quotation stated "such inducements were made" but it is not specific.

The writer does not know just what the inducements may have been, but he does know at least a part of it, for he has in his possession two of what may have been several sheets of subscriptions to a fund, which was headed as follows: "We the undersigned agree to take the Republican Paper about to be started at Columbus for one year, and to pay therefore Five Dollars."

The following names appear on one sheet, all in the same hand writing, a sort of compilation of other sheets in which original signatures were written, two of which we have: Robert Jones, W. D. Hoard, Peter Kimball, D.D. Kelsey, George Graham, N. A. Robinson, Peter McIntyre, G. W. Robinson, W. H. Butterfield, H. W. McCafferty, A.D. Bond, Daniel Hall, Dr. Norcross, W. B. Halsey, O. R. Luey, Henry Waterhouse, G. S. Campbell, Collins Hinman, Thomas Smith, J. E. Churchill, F. G. Randall, Charles Anderson, A. O. Sexton, W. E. Butler, S. W. Chadbourn, A. J. Whitcomb, Hazelton & Johnson, Adam McCounell, Miles Burnham, William B. Rouse, James Lowth, E. S. Rupnow.

Whether the above is a complete list we have no way of knowing. The absence of names of a number of well known business and professional men, known for their liberality might indicate another list of names, or it is possible that a portion of the inducement was a substantial sum given privately by one or more.

Editor Hits Hard

At any rate the editor of the Democrat did not turn the other cheek, but began to slug the opposing Republicans in his issue of October 1st, being his fourth week since the Transcript went Democratic, and one week before the first issue of the Republican came off the press.

We quote Mr. Bath's welcome to Mr. Decker which said: "The

New Paper: We learn that Mr. Decker, we believe formerly connected with a newspaper establishment at Waupun, is about to commence the publication of a radical paper in this village (radical being his pet name for the new party).

"We have never before heard of this gentleman, but having since met him two or three times we infer that he is a pleasant and companionable person, and well adapted to succeed in his enterprise.

"We wish him success in common with the craft and fraternity everywhere.

"Concerning the cabal who initiated this movement, we may say that while we are indifferent as to how many radical papers are started, the motive is too apparent in this case to escape mention; the lack of support which these gave the Transcript; their rage when we purchased that organ and made it democratic; their subsequent bitterness in declining the most trifling support to the only paper printed in the village, when democrats had for years supported their organ without question; and their avowed threats of 'starving out' our paper by the introduction of another, all show the basis of malice on which rests their quell as far as this 'ring' is concerned.

"Now gentlemen, can you make yourselves a dollar's worth of business, or a vote by your course? Try it."

Another Piece

Another piece in the same issue reads this way: "Some of the loyal radicals at present giving tone to the society of our beautiful village by residence here and who enthusiastically remained at home 'during the dark hour of our country's peril; or feeling urged their neighbors to go to war, regard it as a personal insult that any man should attempt the publication of a newspaper in Columbus, which advocates principles differing from their own.

"Further they are surprised and indignant that any person should have the timidity to commit such an overt act in a community where they believe themselves commissioned to keep every man's conscience and regulate his belief, on pain of being ostracised if he does not declare white black and black white at their bidding.

"But there is no cause for surprise or anger. The same changes are going on everywhere, and when they cease to be so mole-eyed that they cannot see it, and when they think they can reap a profit on the other side, they will be among the first to leave the rotten, sinking ship of radicalism."

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

— INSTALLMENT NO. 391

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I am, Mr. Editor, a subscriber,—and one who earns his own living."

Mud Slings

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The Columbus Transcript

We have a portion of one copy of the Columbus Weekly Transcript, dated June 10th, 1868, the only copy of the Transcript we have ever seen. This copy is from Vol. 4, indicating that publication must have begun sometime late in 1864, possibly about the time the Columbus Journal suspended after the death of the aged editor, Daniel Mallo, in the fall of 1864.

The editor and publisher of the Transcript was a man named Valentine Baltuff, who together with his brother John had been publishing the Lodi Weekly Herald, which suspended, its last issue being dated November 9, 1864.

Part of what we have written is quoted from page 543 of Columbia County History by Butterfield, who says further: Baltuff came to Columbus with the material of the defunct Herald, and established the Columbus Transcript, unfolding the Republican banner and pledging himself, beneath its folds, to support the great new National party in all that was consistent with the wants of a large constituency.

"Mr. Baltuff possessed but little literary ability but wielded a composing stick (used years ago when type was set by nimble fingers) with great fluency.

"There was sufficient local genius a broad however to supply the Transcript with editorial pabulum, and the paper flourished (perhaps).

"In August, 1868, in the heat of the summer and memorable political campaign, a somewhat sudden, but not altogether unexpected change took place in the office of the Transcript. Mr. Baltuff disposed of the concern, and soon afterward, went to Floyd County, Iowa, where he re-established the same line of business.

"Henry D. Bath, was the new owner of the personal property, and on the 10th of September, 1868, he ushered into the journalistic world a seven-column folio newspaper with name and politics changed to the Columbus Democrat.

"Mr. Bath's first issue said "To the Public: It is already known by many that the Columbus Trans-

cript which formerly issued from this office has changed hands, and today, for the first time, we believe, in ten years, the colors of the Democratic party are hoisted by a newspaper in Columbia County."

We want to publish a few items of interest found in the only copy of the Transcript known to exist, and it is badly worn and torn.

Items From The Transcript

EXTRA CARE should be taken in fastening doors and windows at night, if you have valuables in your house which thieves would be likely to carry off. The county is full of thieves and they may come this way about these days.

A NEW TOWN PUMP has been put in. It works well in the well and this speaks well for its maker, W. B. Halsey. Those needing to purchase a pump will do well to call on this well-to-do pump man, well!

RUN AWAY. We learn that on last Thursday, at Doylestown, a team belonging to Mr. Dayton, became frightened and ran away, smashing things generally, and severely injuring Mr. D. and breaking the leg of his youngster boy, a lad six or seven years of age. The limb was skillfully set by Dr. Bundy of Rio.

DURING THE PREVALANCE of a thunderstorm last week Tuesday a shed, attached to a barn, belonging to Mr. Gardner, of Fountain Prairie, was struck by lightning, took fire, and two wagons and a reaper burned, and a mower partially destroyed. The barn was saved, total lost was \$350, no insurance. There were three men in the barn at the time the shed was struck, but none of them were injured.

TEACHERS ASSOCIATION. The annual meeting of the Wisconsin State Teachers Association will be held at Milwaukee from the 23rd to the 25th of July. Ladies who intend to attend the convention are requested to report their names to L. Bath, County Superintendent of Schools, previous to the 8th of Ju-

ly. By so doing they will be entertained in Milwaukee free of expense.

PERSONAL. Mr. J. M. Taggart, who during the past fall and winter was in the employ of D. D. Starks as a journeyman show maker, paid us a visit last week. He has been since last March engaged in his usual spring occupation, that of catching wild pigeons with a net. It is a more profitable business than one would suppose.

Mr. T. has, while he has been gone, caught between two and three thousand dozen birds, and in two days, once he caught 275 dozen. The least price per dozen he received for them at any time was \$1.00 per dozen and the most \$2.50.

At those figures, the proceeds will foot up to a pretty handsome sum, and will decidedly do very well as the products of about two and one half months labor.

"Uncle John" arrived Friday night and took his departure on Monday noon. He returns to Michigan after more game. Success to him.

(Note: Anyone wishing to read a vivid account of the slaughter and extermination of wild pigeons that once darkened the sky for weeks from dawn to dark, will find an account by eye witness in the recent book, "The Landlooker" in Columbus Library.)

PROVIDENCE PERMITTING a camp meeting will be held in the grove belonging to Mr. John Hick's, located four miles northwest of the village of Fall River (on section 17) commencing the 30th day of June and continuing over the Sabbath.

A victualling establishment with warm meals, provided under the supervision of Messrs. J. Grout and R. Huggett, will be kept on the grounds, subject to the order of the camp meeting committee.

No huckstering otherwise will be allowed within the prescribed limit of the law. Signed by order of the committee; J. S. Bolton, Pastor, M. E. Church.

P.S. Conveyances will probably run from the Fall River depot to camp ground.

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A Foundry For Columbus

In the issue of January 7, 1869, there is a half column under the heading of Foundry and Planing Mill, as follows:

"We are happy to be able to inform our readers this week that at last a movement is in progress for the establishment of a branch of manufacturing industry of some magnitude in this village. (Columbus had adopted the village form of government in 1864.)

On New Year's Day, Messrs. Samuel C. Hall and George A. Caswell, both of Whitewater, were in Columbus, and purchased the site for a planing mill and foundry to be erected as soon as possible.

So promptly is the work to be pushed that a portion of the enterprise will be in operation by May 1st, and it will all be erected and in running order as soon as the work can be done. The site includes six lots on the block upon which is situated the Methodist Church, and adjoining the railroad tracks, making a very desirable location.

(The lots were 7-8-9-10-11-12 of Block 5. Birdsey's Addition, running from Main street to Birdsey street, all fronting on the railroad, being the ground on which the plant at "Metco, Inc." stands now. The Methodist church referred to stood on lot one of the same block, at the corner of Mill and Birdsey streets, where the home of Mrs. Joseph Hughes, 458 West Mill street, now stands.)

Six Lots For \$500

It (the land) was purchased from Mr. A. G. Cook for the reasonable consideration of \$500.

The gentlemen engaging in this improvement come hither very highly recommended both having been foremen in the manufactory of Mr. Esterly at Whitewater (a farm or agricultural machinery plant) one of them for thirteen years, and it is said that there are in the state, no better mechanics.

The capital invested, it is stated, will reach \$10,000 which will probably be largely increased in the future.

It is no exaggerated estimate to state that this enterprise will attract to our village some forty or fifty families, and that in the next five years it will increase our population 500 inhabitants. (Chamber of Commerce, please note.)

The gentlemen interested in this project are strongly endorsed as business men and mechanics, they are not straightened for capital, and they are disposed to forward the work energetically.

Even now, Mr. Joseph E. Churchill is authorized by them to con-

tract for stone and other building material.

Another favorable feature of the undertaking is that it will probably bring thither Mr. L. W. Severance, also a foreman of long experience in Esterly's works, a man of large experience as a mechanic and possessed of considerable capital.

In this regard the new year began very encouragingly for Columbus, and we hope to see it so continue. There are in this village excellent, not to say unequalled facilities and opportunities for the initiation of several enterprises of like nature. Let the work progress."

(Note: The foundry was built and operated several years until it burned down and was not rebuilt. For account and picture, see installments 60-61, Story of Columbus.)

The Early Times Of Columbus

As we have previously indicated, Editor H. D. Bath of the Columbus Democrat ran a good paper and tried to make it interesting to his readers. He covered the local news, which often was very little and national and state news to a greater degree, and as of February 1869, introduced a series of articles under the above heading, with this notice. "We propose to write week by week, sketches of men and the events of our early times, and hope those familiar with them will furnish us with what data they have, as some have already done."

At that time there were still living here many men and women that had come here in the forties, fifties and the sixties, who could recall either from their own personal knowledge, or from hearing their parents tell incidents of the past.

There were no local newspapers published here until about the mid-fifties, and a gap of about five years from late 1863 to late 1868, when there was no paper.

Therefore Mr. Bath had no documents of a general nature or published material regarding the early days of the Columbus area, and had to rely mostly on "hear-say" for most of the material or data handed in.

The writer knows from the experience of over seven years of research for the Story of Columbus that "memory," a God-given blessing, is not always reliable. It is really surprising that so many people remember so many things that were not so in the first place. This is especially true when it comes to figures, dates or amounts of money, etc.

Therefore it is not at all surprising that in the first of the series of sketches, that of Major Elbert Dickason, the data supplied to Mr. Bath, sincerely believed by most everyone for over a hundred years, while true for the main part such as biography, etc., has proven to be far from true in so far as his relations with John Hustis and Lewis Ludington are concerned, as will be shown following Mr. Bath's sketch.

Major Elbert Dickason

"When Milwaukee was but a straggling village with most of her now populous and busy streets and splendid architecture scarcely disturbed by the paleface, and when East Water street, the great thoroughfare of Wisconsin (remember this was written in 1869) was yet a swamp with wild rice on its surface, instead of the "Nicholson" pavement, a certain New York capitalist named Nelson, we are told, sent the elder James Ludington to the Territory of Owisconsin, then the far west, to secure land at low rates. He came to Milwaukee, and as it is stated, meeting with Major Dickason, induced him to come to what is now Columbus, and assisted him with means to secure a large amount of land."

(Ludington's name was Lewis, not James. He came of his own accord, bringing his own capital, to invest it in large tracts of land being offered by the Federal Government, mostly at \$1.25 per acre.)

"Major Dickason, who may be regarded as the founder of our village and in many respects, its Solomon Juneau, was a Virginian by birth and removed to Ohio and subsequently to Illinois. When he came to this part of the country, he was somewhat advanced in middle life, and is described as a tall, spare man with light hair, which he always wore long upon his shoulders. He is represented as a very brave man and extremely generous.

"He served during the whole of the memorable Blackhawk War, and it was from that fact that he gained much of his knowledge of this western country and his rank of Major.

"In 1840 (it was 1839) he erected the first habitation ever built by a white man in many miles from this vicinity. It was a log cabin, and stood (in a small clearing among oak trees) upon (or near) the Crawfish River just beyond the site of the present depot. (The depot then was the long brick building now owned by Caldwell Lumber Co. along the tracks and to the left or west of the end of Dickason boulevard.)

Editor Bath's story of Major Elbert Dickason continues:

"The Major subsequently brought with him, it is related, sixty or seventy head of cattle, upwards of twenty horses, and four or five wagons, and took possession of 1,300 acres of land for which he was to pay \$5 per acre within five years. (Wrong, it was \$2.50).

"According to one statement the major seemed to have a Daniel Boone idea of retaining a sufficient hunting ground for himself, being a great hunter, and believing that the wooded area between Mud Lake (south of Reeseville) and Lost Lake (north of Columbus) would never be settled, and that prairie lands alone would be ample for all demands of agriculture.

"It is also stated that shortly after he arrived here he staked out twelve lots near his cabin for village purposes, and called them "Columbus." The embryo of our beautiful and prosperous village. (Columbus went under the village form of government, separating itself from the township in 1864.)

His First Crop

"The first ground broken with the plow extended beyond the hill upon which now stands the residence of Gov. Lewis (St. Mary's hospital grounds), William L. Lewis (The F. A. Stare grounds), and that of Mr. A. G. Cook (now the American Legion Post.)

"Here the major stacked his first harvest of wheat (in the straw) and here the stealthy savage applied the torch to his stacks and burned them.

"He also erected near the spot now occupied by the grist mill, a saw mill, a grist mill and a blacksmith shop.

"Many stories are told of the Major's encounters with the Indians, many of them so varied as to appear to have been made to suit the taste of the hearer or the narrator. It is certain that while the early settlers who came here shortly after him lived very amicably in the midst of a number, largely superior, of aborigines, that the major never had any special regard for them, and never lost an opportunity of evincing it by means of his rifle.

"It is said to have been his statement that while he would not aver that he had ever killed any of them, he had often secured their blankets, warm from the wearing and with suggestive bullet holes through them.

"After they fired and destroyed his first crop of wheat, he followed them with his rifle to the Wisconsin river, and came up with them just as a canoe load had reached the middle of the stream.

"He waited until the current swung the occupants of the little bark fully in range and then delivered his fire. On his return he said that he had pursued them to avenge his wrongs and he was satisfied, and believed they would remember his old rifle.

"The major was of a hospitable and free hearted nature, even in the months succeeding the period we have mentioned, when blazed trees were the only mile stones and guides to the adventurer on this frontier. The wave of civilization was flowing rapidly westward into the interior of this territory, and not a few were exploring these wilds in search of future homes, and whoever stopped with the major, departed without charge.

"He was not, by nature, intended for a farmer, and was not successful. Unable to meet his obligations, he gave up his claim on 1,300 acres, now partially occupied by the village, to Ludington, receiving \$200 for what he had done.

"With a team or two he removed to what is now Wyocena, where he remained until his death some years later. (August 9, 1848, aged 48 years, nine months and nine days.)

A Hurricane

"His cabin continued to stand for a long time, and was afterward occupied (briefly) by some of the early settlers of Columbus. A story is told about a hurricane which passed over the village and partly un-roofed this cabin. The cellar beneath it was merely a hole in the ground, but the family, terrified by the blackness of the air and the fury of the storm, sought refuge in it, and closed the trap door in the floor after them.

"The deluge poured through the rent roof in torrents and passed into the cellar, until its inmates, to prevent being submerged, were compelled, before the storm was abated, to seek refuge in their closest neighbors, then living where now stands the Hotel Whitney. (Blackhawk Tavern.)

"What became of the old cabin we have not been told, but like the form of him who reared it on the bank of the Crawfish in the pioneer days, it has long since sunk down into the inevitable dust." (The End.)

Note: When Major Dickason left Columbus to re-establish himself farther west, he chose a spot on a creek which he named Duck Creek, on a slight rise above the water. The name Wyocena came to the major in a dream and he so named it.

It is not of Indian origin as no tribe in the area had ever heard the word. The major's grave, with a nice monument above it is in

the cemetery at Wyocena.

We will now tell our readers, the result of our research from actual documents, which were related in some of the early installments of the "Story of Columbus."

From installment No. 10, Story of Columbus, published in this newspaper over seven years ago, we quote.

"Dickason, born in Virginia in 1799, he with his parents migrated first to Ohio and subsequently to McClain County, Illinois. He was married to Obedience Maxwell, at Bloomington, Illinois, in 1831. There were, at least, two children, a son Jackson and a daughter Ruth Jane. "He became an officer in the Illinois militia at the time of the Blackhawk War and may have become a U. S. Army officer, and after the conclusion of said war, one of his duties was to assist in moving the reluctant Winnebago Indians whose habitat was the area east of the Wisconsin river, to new lands allotted them west of the river, because the Federal government had completed a survey of the lands east of the Wisconsin, and had thrown the surveyed lands open to sale to anyone who could find the money for at least forty acres, which was the unit of sale, but not limited to one forty, at a price of \$1.25 per acre.

"Dickason with a detachment was active in rounding up the staggering bands of Indians and moving them west of the river, and had become familiar with and conceived great liking for the land now known as Dodge and Columbia counties, but he had no money with which to buy land.

He Goes To Milwaukee

"At the conclusion of his service, and knowing that Milwaukee was the point where most land speculators were likely to be found, he went there hoping he could find a backer, through his personal knowledge of the area.

"Here he learned of Lewis Ludington and his son-in-law, John Justis, both from Carmel, New York.

"Lewis Ludington had come to Milwaukee in 1838 and was accompanied by a young nephew Harrison, then 26 years of age, and a business friend named Harvey Burchard.

"They made several long trips on horseback through the interior for the purpose of selecting government lands being offered for sale at \$1.25 per acre. They purchased extensive tracts, largely parcels of heavy timber and along water courses, in various parts of the territory, including considerable land in what is now Dodge and Columbia counties, the latter having been "entered" (recorded) in February, 1839.



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

— INSTALLMENT NO. 394

The son-in-law, John Hustis, a lawyer, a graduate of Yale University, came to Milwaukee in November 1836 when the population was only 100; he entered land on both sides of the Rock river in what is now Dodge County, in 1837. He later established the village of Hustisford, and was the original owner of about half the land now covered by the western portion of the residential section of Columbus. He is known to have delivered the first Fourth of July oration in Milwaukee.

These were the men that Major Dickason was desirous of contacting, and he was successful in so doing. He evidently was successful in securing the backing of both Ludington and Hustis, and must have known the legal description of the land he desired.

The records of the Government Land Office at Green Bay, Brown County, of which some of this area was then a part shows entry on February 18th, 1839, by John Hustis of several parcels of land and others in Portage County of which what is Columbia County was then a part; and also other parcels were entered on same date for several quarter sections in both counties to Lewis Ludington, which collectively gave him absolute control of the flowage rights of the Crawfish river.

The Contract

Two days later on February 20th, John Hustis and Elbert Dickason entered into a "Sales Contract" covering 695.44 acres for \$1738.60 or \$2.50 per acre of which 640 acres was in Portage County, now Columbia County, and 55.44, the land bordering the river, in what is now Dodge County.

The writer had temporary possession of this document, for purposes of obtaining a photostatic copy of same, at the time of writing the story for the "Story of Columbus," over seven years ago, and thus had undisputable documentary evidence of what the agreement really was.

The document consists of what now might be called a Trust Deed, a combination of an agreement to sell and give title at a future date provided payment including interest and taxes had been made; an agreement to the effect that in the case of failure of performance of the covenant or agreement by the party contracting to buy, the seller has the right to declare the contract void, and to recover any unpaid interest as rent for the use and occupancy of said premises; to

recover all damages sustained by reason of any unnecessary destruction of timber or trees; or by holding over without permission.

We note, also embodied in the document, called for payment of interest at 7%, which was the customary and legal rate, annually on February 20th of each year, and the payment of all taxes on the property.

The writer carefully examined the original note and found not a single entry or indorsement showing payment of interest or any part of the principal, but did show a written statement, in pencil, signed by L. Henry Bird, acknowledging receipt of \$12.80 paid by John Hustis for a tax receipt on the two quarters in Portage (Columbia) County.

There was a similar document between Lewis Ludington and Elbert Dickason, which the writer never saw, but he was told that nothing whatever had been paid thereon.

A Loan of Cash

Not only had Dickason paid nothing down on the Trust Deed, taxes, interest etc., but Hustis and or Ludington advanced him the cash necessary to build a dam across the Crawfish river and to build the grist mill, the sawmill and the blacksmith shop.

We quote from Butterfields History of Columbia County, (1880) page 509, one paragraph as follows from a statement made by John Hustis "Dickason was in occupancy of the property for a period extending over four years without paying either of us a cent of principal or interest, or any of the taxes levied thereon."

"We found that we had considerable of an 'elephant' on our hands. Finally Ludington gave Dickason some \$600.00 in cash and the income of the mill for one year, it having been leased to Colonel Jeremiah Drake.

With these means, Dickason made a purchase of what was afterwards Wyocena."

It will be noted from the above that the settlement with Dickason came from Ludington only; this was because the dam, the mills and the blacksmith shop, all of the improvements, which had been made possible by Ludington having financed Dickason, were on Ludington land.

On the Hustis land, the west half of section 13, no improvements had been made.

Major Dickason, without question, was our first settler, and

with borrowed money, built a dam, and the mills previously referred to.

However hard he may have tried, he was not successful in the venture. It is admitted that he was more of a hunter and frontiersman, than he was a farmer or a businessman. When his situation became so bad that he could no longer get credit on his obligations so long past due, he made settlement as has been stated, gave peaceable possession of the property, fully realizing that his creditors had been most generous with him.

The writer has examined the Abstract of Title to the Mill property and found that Major Dickason never had even a land contract, as his name does not appear in the document.

Nevertheless, the community as a whole, for well over a hundred years has had the feeling that the major had been robbed of his equity and unfairly treated, which myth was prominently enacted at the time of our Centennial Pageant in 1940. So bitter was the feeling that "the city" once declined to accept an oil portrait of Lewis Ludington and several valuable documents having to do with the early days of Columbus.

Mr. R. L. Hustis of Milwaukee, still living as far as the writer knows, in a conference about seven or eight years ago made substantially the following statement "Some 25 or 30 years ago, Mr. Hustis wrote to 'Certain Parties' (he would not divulge the names) in Columbus, offering to the city (of which his grandfather Lewis Ludington was the proprietor of the original village) an oil portrait of his grandfather, and several documents having to do with the early days here, provided assurances be given that they would be carefully preserved for posterity.

He said that he received a curt reply, a letter informing him that these mementos were not wanted, for Columbus wanted nothing to remind them of Lewis Ludington.

He therefore concluded "well if that is the way they feel, to heck, with them, and these historical documents and the portrait were given elsewhere, and are, unfortunately, not now available.

We suggest to those of our readers who are interested in more details than given herein, that installments 10 to 19 published in the very early weeks of the "Story of Columbus" to re-read them. If you do not have them, they can be had from the Journal-Republican.

Earlier Times of Wisconsin

We have previously written of Editor Bath's intentions to write and print a series of articles about people and happenings in the earlier years of Columbus and the area; here, then, is what he wrote, from information, mostly hear-say, about Primitive Worship, First Fourth of July Celebration, Organization of the County, and the first Courts.

"Columbus is now a village of churches: we believe that no town in the state has a larger number in proportion to population, and very few, if any have so many.

The spires of these edifices of worship are among the first objects that arrest the attention of the passerby.

Rising above the foliage that embowers the village in summer, they contribute much to the beauty which every visitor remarks on in Columbus. But it is not many years since our village was rather noted for its lack of places of worship and its freedom (absence) from religious observances.

The first mention made of any attempt of public service, that has come to us, states that the first meeting was convened in the old schoolhouse in 1846. (The residence at 426 South Ludington Street, was made out of one-half the old school house).

"The services were by a stranger who posted several written notices to the public, that on that evening he would speak upon religious topics. A relatively small group attended, and their report was that the speaker after three attempts to get started, said 'Gentlemen I have always been impressed with the idea that I could preach, and have desired an opportunity to make the attempt: being in a new country I thought I would try it: I haven't done near as well as I expected. Good Day.'

The First Religious Society

"We understand that the first religious association was organized in this community in the year 1850, in the old schoolhouse, in which services were held occasionally when some missionary circuit rider happened to come this way.

"This meeting organized the First Congregational Church of Columbus, and we are informed that Deacons Thomas, Silskee, Richard Stratton and B. M. Benedict were among the earliest members.

Note: (The information given to Mr. Bath was not correct, as the church records clearly show the following names as the original members as of January 26th 1850, the date of actual forming of the church. Maria Hegeman, Ellen Hageman, Asenath Stratton, Polly Stratton (Mrs.), Harriet M. Ledyard (Mrs.), James Campbell, Julia Campbell (Mrs.), Lucy Hayden (Mrs.), a total of eleven of whom five were married women, four unmarried women and two men, all from only six families).

"Rev. Cyrus E. Rosengrains was the first minister. He has been dead since 1860; but his memory is still fragrant in this community. He came hither as a missionary, and was widely respected in this vicinity for his many excellencies of character.

"For years he was the leading spirit here in educational and religious interests, and he filled the Congregational pulpit until 1859, when his health failing he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. Melvin.

"The Congregational church building (started in 1850) was completed in 1854.

(Note: The original building still stands on the original foundation, and has been an apartment dwelling for a great many years. We show a photograph herewith, as it now appears.)

"The next society organized here was the Methodist. In 1849 the M. E. Church of Waterloo, Fountain Prairie (Fall River) and Columbus, was a Missionary Circuit, all three under the care of different missionaries, (but in the mid 1850's each organized a society and built churches).

From Present Records

The original Methodist church here, frequently called the English Methodist, was located at the corner of Birdseys and Mill Streets, word thereon beginning in the summer of 1858, completed and dedicated in February, 1859. The membership grew and within ten years it became apparent that a much larger church would soon be needed.

In September 1871 two lots on Broadway (now Dickason) were purchased of William Griswold and building began in the spring of 1872 and completed in 1873, this being the present M. E. Church. The old church was then sold and moved to where the Frigid locker plant now is. It became a hall, sometimes called the Opera-House, and later a farm machinery store, and still later a Hotel was built on the site which is now the Locker Plant.

The German Methodist's first church was a frame church set high up on posts or piers at the Northwest corner of School and Spring streets; that corner was low and water usually stood for days after each heavy rain.

The building was 4 feet by 36 feet; there were then 56 members, and 16 more came in the following year.

Because of the water situation and the smallness of the building, the congregation voted to move the building to a lot on North Ludington in 1867. In 1873 the congregation voted to build a new, larger, brick church, which is now the Masonic Hall, that organization having purchased the church after the merger of the Ludington Street church with the Broadway church in 1944.

The German Lutheran Church

By 1855 a considerable number of German families from the Grand

Duchy of Mecklenburg had settled in this area, the desire to enjoy religious privileges similar to those in Germany led a number of them to form a religious society in Columbus in 1855. The first ministrations were by Rev. Fachtmann, a Watertown minister, who began his preaching in a private home, and subsequently in the old school house.

As new families arrived, the necessity for a church edifice became apparent. In February 1857, James T. Lewis, one of our leading citizens who was destined to become Governor of Wisconsin, donated Lot 9. Block 10 of Lewis Village of West Columbus, as a site for a Lutheran church. This was on Washington street, about the center of the block.

And on May 3, 1858, Articles of Agreement were signed by which was formed the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Congregation of Columbus.

The erection of a church building was begun on the site, but in its early stages, the majority of the congregation decided that another location would be better, so the lot given by Mr. Lewis was sold, and lots No. 1 on Block 13 of Birdsey's addition selected and was donated.

The church was built during the ministry of Rev. H. P. Duborg in 1859. This was on the north east corner of Birdsey and Newcomb streets.

In 1864 the location of the railroad was changed from its former entrance to Columbus at school street and Waterloo road, to the present location, which had the effect of inaking the church somewhat inaccessible. In the summer of 1868 the church was moved to lots 6 and 7 and 8 of Block 16, and also made larger: and about two years later the present brick church was built, and subsequently a wing was added. The old church was sold and moved down to Water street, where it still stands being the wooden apartment house, second from the Water and Light plant.



Original Congregational Church as it now appears



Original Lutheran Church as it now is

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

— INSTALLMENT NO. 395

Mr. Bath, writing in 1869 about the early days in Columbus, continues:

James T. Lewis, our first lawyer and Dr. J. C. Axtel, both arrived in Columbus in July 1845. Lewis was 26 years old and unmarried and presumably Dr. Axtel may have been about the same age. Both were well educated, and roomed and officed together.

A. P. Birdsey was possibly slightly older but not much, and was a farmer, live-stock dealer, real estate owner, tavern keeper, an influential man.

Up until February 1846, this area had been a part of what was then Portage County, named after the portage between the Wisconsin and the Fox River near Ft. Winnebago. What is now the city of Portage did not exist, as "Portage City" was created by legislative action some years later, although there was a small unorganized settlement clustered around the Indian Agency house near Fort Winnebago.

But the Territorial Legislature passed an act the 3rd day of February, 1846, to set off a portion of the lower part of Portage County, which at that time ran clear up to the north limit of the territory and was only six to eight townships wide (at different times).

The new county came very nearly being called York County. James T. Lewis had filed a petition to call the new county Columbia but Wayne B. Dyer of Otesgo and other settlers farther west had filed a petition for York, and the bill, so worded was about to pass, when Mr. Lewis, who was a very good speaker succeeded in inducing enough voters that when the count was made Columbia won out by a single vote.

The act of 1847 named Wyocena, a very small settlement, but centrally located, to be the county seat for one year or until the next general election. In March, 1848, the Territorial Legislature passed an act, temporarily locating the county seat at Columbus for five years. But Columbus was not permitted to enjoy the honor for the full five years, as there was considerable complaint because Columbus was not more centrally located.

Several indecisive elections passed, but in the April, 1851, election the vote of the county favored Fort Winnebago by a majority of 300, and by another vote subsequently by legislative action "Portage City" was designated and created in place of Fort Winnebago, which was a township, but not a town.

The First Courts

Mr. Bath writes, "The first court ever held in the county was when the old district system obtained, and was presided over by Judge Alexander Stone, in the old school house in Columbus.

"Judge C. H. Larrabee had been elected for this district, but at the time had made an exchange with Judge Stone, who was an old bachelor of rather a humorous turn of mind, and several dry jokes are related in this vicinity concerning him.

"During the first term of court, T. Clark Smith (great grandfather of Don Smith) was sheriff of Columbia County, and H. A. Whitney was deputy. (Clark Smith lived on his farm, now the Wisconsin Academy, and H. A. Whitney, father of Alonza H. Whitney, was a land owner and hardware merchant of Columbus.)

"In the first case that was tried, the jury went out under the direc-

tion of the deputy to a room in the Whitney House (an inn and tavern) to use as jury room in which to make up their verdict.

"The deliberation extended into the night, and the jury becoming convinced that they could not agree, suddenly dispersed through the window despite all the efforts of the deputy.

"The last indictment presented at this term of court was in a certain matter associated with the somewhat notorious name of Nancy Stiles. The indictment being the last business before the court, the foreman was unable to keep the members of the jury together, and it was discovered after presentation that only ten members had been present when the indictment was found, and thus it was vitiated.

"It was at this same term of court that Judge Stone fined a petit juror for contempt of court to which judicial visitation the party punished replied promptly and cheerfully, 'Fine and Be Damed.' Whereup the court went and saw him in a second mulct which satisfied him.

"The first proceedings in a justice court in this vicinity, of which we obtain any trace, was an action of assault and battery, wherein one Joseph Brown did do Bob Mills bodily harm contrary to law.

"It was tried before Squire Allen, and we grope in darkness as to what was the judgement of the court."

Note. There was no date mentioned when Mr. Bath wrote the above, but it was without doubt during the term of T. Clarke Smith as sheriff which was 1847-48, in territorial days before Wisconsin was admitted to statehood, he being the first sheriff and James T. Lewis of Columbus was District Attorney that same term.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

— INSTALLMENT NO. 395

In the same issue of February 25, 1869, there appeared a full column about the village of Rio, copied from the Milwaukee "Wisconsin" from which we take a part; one paragraph reads "Morals: There is one poor saloon in the village, a sensible, plain-looking church, a flourishing school, and two temperance lodges (The Good Templars and the Sons of Temperance) have a total membership of 230."

There was also a write up of "one of the wealthiest and successful farmers in this county. He is one of the Jonathan Gilbert boys, who came here in 1848. He was then a young man of 22, who had hired out on a farm since a boy. He had begun with nothing and saved up three or four hundred dollars when he came west."

"He made for the rich, open prairies, a few miles south of Rio. He got hold of a sixty acre tract, partly improved, and then pre-empted a quarter section of "Government" land adjoining."

"From the start he seemed to have an instructive knowledge of what would pay. Wheat was then worth from 50 to 60 cents in Milwaukee and transportation costs more than half of that."

"Gilbert saw more money in raising coarse grains and feeding stock. He saw also more profit in wheat land than in timber land. One good acre of wheat would buy his wood pile for a year. He saw too, that rich Columbia county prairie, would be good property at two, five or ten dollars an acre. All his spare money went for adjoining land."

"And so he went on—raising and selling—buying and improving—adding and accumulating. During the war period he saw money in sheep and kept from 100 to 1,500 head. He has now (1869) in his grain bins a little matter of 11,000

bushels of wheat and 6,000 bushels of oats and is in no hurry to sell."

"Mr. Gilbert says that it is his habit never to fret. He goes on the principal that money makes money."

"In his manners and dress he is as plain as a wooden spoon. He lives in an old fashioned farm house, on his home place of 200 acres. He has about 600 acres adjoining his home farm, all improved and occupied by tenants."

His lands are worth \$40 an acre at the lowest. His other little items of bonds, securities and various conveniences are worth perhaps as much as his lands. His yearly farming profits alone are estimated at \$12,000 and what is strange he makes no fuss about it."

"He is simply a clear headed farmer, not "set up" with his success. He has a family of five rugged boys whom he is bringing up to strict habits of industry and economy, the best safeguard against evil in this or any other world."

Note: We found his biography in 1880 Columbia County History, pages 1086-7 and find that his first name is Warren, born in Herkimer County, New York, June 22, 1827, a son of Erastus and Nancy Gilbert (not Jonathan). His father was killed as a result of a fall in his barn when Warren was only three years old. He was taken to the home of his grandmother where he lived until he was 14 years of age when he began working out as an extra hand for nearby farmers, still living at his grandmother's home. When he had saved \$500 from his earnings he was about 21 years old, and upon the advice of his grandmother, he decided to go west and grow up with the country."

How he happened to come to Columbia County, Wisconsin, is not known to the writer, but he came

here in 1848 and after looking the country over, he purchased 60 acres in the town of Lowville, which was partly improved and probably had a long cabin on it, for he paid \$250 for it, and then pre-empted 160 acres more, a direct purchase from the U. S. Government at a cost of \$200.

In 1849 he married Miss Mary Wedrich of the state of New York, but whether he went back to New York for her, or became acquainted with her here is not known. The couple had five sons, George Henry, Albert, James W., Charles L., and Eugene.

The boys were brought up to work, and at least some of them became established in Minnesota to which state many younger men went to acquire cheap land a generation or so later.

In 1880, according to his biography in Columbia County History, he had 2,500 acres in this county, all improved and in one body, besides 300 acres more, detached but near enough to work. He also had 2,300 acres in Freeborn County, Minnesota, of which 1,400 acres was plow land, and 1,200 acres in Martin County, Minnesota, 800 of which was in cultivation.

He usually kept about 25 work horses, 60 head of cattle and 400 head of sheep. He never followed any trade or business other than farming. His motto was "Never go into debt, and always live within your means."

We do not know what year he died, but in an atlas of 1890 his lands were still shown in his name. but in a Columbia County Atlas of 1916 there are a total of 2,739 acres marked Warren Gilbert Estate, all in Lowville township.

There are probably numerous descendants of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Gilbert in the Rio area.

The End

St. Jerome's Church

A group of Catholics, many of whom had emigrated from Bavaria, a German State, and others, from Ireland and elsewhere, met under the ministrations of Rev. Martin Kundig, meeting in homes at first, in 1856. Early in 1856 foundations were laid for a church on a lot donated by A. O. Birdsey. For want of money the work, was stopped and not resumed until 1864 and completed in 1866, and in 1868 a red brick home was built for a parsonage. As of 1879 the parish was given as eighty families.

The Universalists

The Rev. Dudley Tyng, organized a group perhaps about 1855 but it was only a small group and did not stay together very long, and was never strong enough to build a church. In February 1866 a new society was organized by Rev. M. G. Todd. A church building was built about 1869 at a cost of \$7,000. on the corner of School street and Broadway. It was never a large group, and gradually disintegrated until somewhere around the turn of the century. The building still stands and has long been a duplex residence.

The Episcopalians

A society or parish was organized somewhere about 1860, but was not strong enough to erect a church building until 1871 when the present little church was built at a cost of about \$3000.00. As of 1880 the circuit included Beaver Dam, Fox Lake, Juneau, Doylestown, and Columbus.

Welsh Calvinistic Methodists

The first Welsh emigrants, a group totaling over fifty, made up of several families, came to Elba township, Dodge County in 1845. They held church services under a large tree, on the very first Sunday after their arrival. After first building log cabins in which to live, a log church was built the following winter; prior to that, meetings were held in homes, and in a hall above a store belonging to Uriah Davies on Broadway.

When the writer first came to Columbus in 1902 there were three Welsh churches in the country in what was then called "The Welsh Settlement." Bethel about 3 miles out on the Beaver Dam Road; Salem, about six miles out; Moriah on a crossroad between the Beaver Dam road 151 and the Randolph road 73, of all of which the well kept cemeteries are the only thing left.

There was also Nazareth, at corner of Spring and Mill streets, which remained Calvinistic Welsh Methodist for many years, but finally severed relations with the

mother church in Wales, and became Presbyterian in 1920.

The Presbyterian Church

The first church to organize and build, was made up of Congregationalists, and Presbyterians, and perhaps a few members of other denominations as the groups were too small to organize separately.

However, in the middle eighteen sixties there was a separation, the Presbyterian portion building a church, which is now the duplex dwelling at 229 South Dickason. The church continued until about 1893 when it disbanded, and until the Nazareth church became Presbyterian, in 1920, there was no Presbyterian society here.

The Baptist Church

Preliminary steps were taken to organize a Baptist church in Columbus in May 1853, but the group was small, and held their services in private homes, and later in a hall above Cooper's Store (Corner Drug Store now).

In March 1863, first steps were taken towards building a church house. The building, (now the Columbo Garment Co.) was completed in the fall of 1864 and dedicated the following spring.

The names in the church book at the time totaled 165, but apparently the membership declined, for on page 682 Columbia County History published in 1880, the membership is given as thirty-five, which inclines us to think the total name given as 165 may have been members and children in the Sunday school.

Other Church Societies

At various times there were other churches of which we have very little actual knowledge: but in scanning newspapers files, researching on other and various subjects, we have noted that at one time there was another German Lutheran church that leased the vacant Presbyterian church.

And at still another time there was another Lutheran church with services in the English language.

The brief sketches we have given elaborating on the still briefer accounts written by Mr. H. D. Bath, are not intended to be complete, nor to cover all religious denominations up to date. For anyone wishing more detailed accounts, they may be found in back installments of "The Story of Columbus" that have been running in the Columbus Journal for about seven and one-half years.

We now return to Mr. Bath's issue of February 25, 1869.

Mr. Bath Writes First

Fourth of July Celebrations

"The national anniversary was first commemorated in this village

in 1846. We have talked with some of the old residents who participated in that Fourth of July celebrations, and they insist that the occasion was never observed with more zest, heartiness and enjoyment than at that time.

"Most of the settlers for miles around were convened and expressed their patriotism without any reference to the conventionalities that came in later years.

"The country tavern which then stood on the present site of the Whitney House had been transferred to a Mr. L. Thomas, and here the dance indispensable at such a time was held. (The Whitney House stood on the corner where Black Hawk Tavern now is.) (The original building burned and the present building took its place.

"In those days most of the settlers here were young or unmarried men and the gentler sex did not exist in the proportion in which they are now to be found.

"Partners were in demand, and all wearers of petticoats were impressed into service. Certain men now noted for their grave and dignified deportments that year passed the night of July 2nd in decorating the hall (the tavern itself): danced all night the 3rd, and spent of the 4th in general polification.

"The portico of Judge Lewis' little law office standing where now is situated Fox's saloon (about half way down hill in the first block on north side of East James street) was the rostrum for the orator of the day, who was the Judge, himself; and Dr. Axtell read the declaration of independence.

"The 'ordinance' consisted of a couple of anvils, one inverted upon the other (with a gun powder in between). The martial music to stir the patriotic breast of the early residents, included a fife and drum, the latter manipulated by A. P. Birdsey, who in the jargon of the present day (1869) would be said to "shake a nasty stick," or in other words, he was considered a good drummer."

Notes on the above: The population according to a family census taken in June 1846 in that part of the area composed of Fountain Prairie, Otsego, Dekorra, Lodi, Arlington, Leeds, Hampden, Columbus, and parts of Caledonia and West Point townships, was 705 males and 564 females or a total of 1269 persons. Assuming that the town of Columbus had approximate 300, and that Elba, Dodge county and York, Dane county, each had as many, there could have been possibly 900 people within a radius of 8 or 10 miles.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, MAY 14

— INSTALLMENT NO. 400

School Matters Prior to 1859

From the Democrat of March 4 1869, we take the following articles pertaining to the earliest school house and the somewhat later "Union School, being a part of the series of "Earlier Times of Columbus" by Editor Bath.

"Columbus may now claim school privileges excelled by few towns in the state of corresponding size.

It is not necessary to mention that these advantages were not attained all at once, nor without much effort.

"There is a "local history" and a fund of reminiscence associated with the history of the schools in this village, worthy perhaps of a few passing words; although minute details would be too voluminous to be included in what we now propose to write.

No Long Cabin School

"Columbus never possessed a long school building: that rough cradle of learning which many distinguished men recall in the glamour that memory throws around boyhood, as their only alma mater, never reared this rugged exterior in this place. The old school house on Ludington street (The residence at 426 South Ludington Street is one half of the "original" school house). Which is now (1869) again in use for its original purpose, and which is now about to become the next door neighbor of a brewery, or perhaps be itself occupied in that business, was built in 1846 at a cost of \$400, and was the first in this vicinity. (It was approximately 25 x 60 ft. in size).

"It has been the scene of many varying events, and has often done duty as church, town-hall, etc. Political harangue and religious exhortations and much, very far from kin to the latter, have found voice within its walls. It has seen festivity and mourning and it is itself now rapidly coming to grief after a career of great usefulness.

Old Records

"Of the first attempts at in-

struction in this seat of learning we have no information: the number of scholars, the names of teachers, and the course of study are alike unknown to me. A few sheets of paper stitched together, dusty and yellow with age have been procured for us, and these dimmed pages, we believe, contain all the records that exist concerning educational matters in this village prior to the fall of 1859.

"Its first memorandum gives meagerly the proceedings of the annual school meeting held in November, 1849, at which J. J. Guppy (since Judge and General) was chairman and Fred F. Farnham, clerk pro tem.

"On that evening, pursuant to previous notice, an election of district officers was held, and Robert Mills was elected director: James T. Lewis since assemblyman, senator, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, and governor) was elected treasurer, and Harrison S. Haskell, clerk. At that meeting, several resolutions were passed, which may be of some interest at this date, by way of comparison.

"Ten dollars was voted to procure seats for the schoolhouse. It was voted to have four months of winter school with a suggestion that the post office, rather than a distinction of the sex of the teacher)."

Note: This writer has checked the account of Columbus Schools in Columbia County History published in 1880, of which there are several cherished copies in the homes of descendants of pioneers hereabouts, and he finds almost word for word exactly the same as we have quoted above, which makes it clearly evident that Historian C. W. Butterfield's source of information is from the issue of Columbus Democrat, Vol. 1 No. 26, March 4th 1869.

Clerk Reports

"On the succeeding page is a report of the District Clerk to the township Superintendent (who was Josiah Arnold) which states that on the first of September 1850, there were residing in the district

(No. 2) forty-seven male and forty-five female persons, between the age of four and twenty years; that sixty-six pupils attended the winter term (in 1849) and sixty two during the summer; E. E. Randall taught four months for which he received \$100.00 (total); and Miss Agnes N. Butts taught five months for which she was paid a total of \$56.00; the amount of money received from the Town Superintendent was \$91.50, and the amount raised by the district was \$30.00.

No Frills

The text-books used during the terms of school were Sanders' Speller, Sanders' Series of Readers, Rhetorical Reader, New Testament, Coluburn's Arithmetic, Morse's Geography, Smith's small Geography of the Heavens, and Comstock's Philosophy.

By way of contrast, the report of the clerk of the district in August, 1868 we find there were the nresiding in the district 296 male and 321 female persons of school age, or between four and twenty years, and that the total number of pupils who attended during the year was 455.

The first brick school building was built late in 1853, called the Union School, and for a while the old wooden school on Ludington Street, was used for town hall, dances, political and religious services, but with over 400 pupils, the Union School was too small and the old wooden building again became school house.

In 1868, the school property in the district was appraised at \$9,500. and during the school year, the district paid its one male teacher, who was also principal, \$960.00, and to female teachers, \$6637. (report doesn't say how many, but we judge there may have been five or six at least).

More than another full column of Mr. Bath's article follows (all of which appears in Columbia County History on pages 674 to 677 inclusive) which we will omit here, perhaps returning to it at some future date.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, MAY 21

— INSTALLMENT NO. 401

BECAUSE OF A TYPOGRAPHICAL —ERROR—

Last weeks installments of the Story of Columbus contained an error which we hasten to correct.

In the next to the last paragraph, the copy read \$1637.00 as the amount paid to the female teachers of the Columbus schools in 1868.

The figure printed was a six instead of a one, reading \$6637. which was a typographical error, for which we are sorry.

Drovers Annual Dinner

In the same issue Mr. Bath reports as follows, which is self explanatory "We have previously said that Columbus is somewhat noted for the numbers of its cattle drovers. There is, among the men engaged in this business a sort of informal organization which some of them are fond of designating bluntly as "The Bull Drivers." It has not as yet been incorporated by the legislature, but the latter body are fully as much the looser by this omission as are the dealers in bovines.

The amount of business which these men do forms a considerable item in the trade of Columbus, more perhaps than would be supposed: They are a liberal minded class of men, much given to quick transactions, and rather prone to the good things of this life.

The "association" gave a dinner at the Whitney house on Monday, March 1st. It was quite "recherche affair." The cooking and arrangement of the dinner was the Proprietors Roberts best. The beef was such as might have met the views of the old "Gridiron Club." It was from a heifer fattened by Henry Munn of Milwaukee, until she reached the weight of 2500 pounds and was the choicest cut we ever saw.

It was provided by Messrs. Wilson and Bolton, the well known butchers of this village. Some of the association were absent, but there were several invited guests, and there sat down at table Messrs. Rev. M. W. Reed (whose grace was brevity itself); A. G. Cook, John Sutton, H. McCafferty, A. W. Ingalsbee, Joe Churchill, Wilson and Bolton, L. Birdsey, O. E. Cornwell, and a pair of editorial "eaters" representing the village press (undoubtedly Mr. Bath of the Democrat and Mr. Decker of the Republican).

The attack upon the viands was sudden and simultaneous and for a while it seemed that they would be vanquished; but after a severe encounter of thirty minutes or more, it became evident that the viands were victorious.

Then a potent invoker of spirits "called them from the vasty deep" but at his bidding they did "down" unlike the obstinate shadow of Bango, with the bad throat.

The health of George Munn, of Milwaukee was drank, as was success of to the "Drovers and Butchers' Association." An hour or two over the post prandial cigar and a budget of anecdote concluded the occasion, which was a very pleasant one.

What Was a Drover

Since it may not be entirely clear to some of our present day leaders, just who or what the name "Drover" is or was, please note.

Try to imagine, in the early days before there were roads, bridges, rubber tires, telephones or railroads, what it would be like to have to transport your grain, produce or livestock to market, which for this area meant to Milwaukee. It was a long tiresome uncomfortable trip with a wagon drawn by a team of oxen, or for the more well-to-do, by horses. But that was the only way as far as wheat or other grain, potatoes, cabbage, apples, honey, butter or similiar produce.

But livestock, cattle, sheep or hogs could be transported on their own feet in about the same length of time as a wagon trip would take. Cattle buyers, such as Sutton, Ingalsbee and Birdsey, mentioned in the story above, would buy from the farmers. (competing with each other) until a herd or drove of 40 to 50 animals had been accumulated; then the owner or chief drover, usually in a buggy or light vehicle, with three or four men on foot, or perhaps some on horseback, would set out for the market, the cattle grazing on grass as they ambeled on toward their own destruction. (For more details see installments 164-170 about John Sutton in Story of Columbus).

After reaching Milwaukee the owner drove the best bargain he could, selling to Armour or Plankington, the two best known packers, or perhaps to some of the smaller or lesser known. Then the return trip, with the "Walker's" riding back in the vehicle of the owner or drover.

Velocipede

We reproduce here a two column advertisement embellished by a wood cut, that appeared in Mr. Bath's paper. Only in a few museums would we at this time be likely to find a vehicle of the sort pictured here. It is a fore-runner of the later bicycle with a high wheel in front and a much smaller wheel in the rear. The velocipede pictured had wire spokes and a steel rim, and if it had tires of any sort they were solid finger sized rubber tired somewhat like those found on baby carriages of a generation ago, or a "pram" of today.

We looked forward eagerly to see what Mr. Bath had to say about the exhibition in his paper

following the same.

This is the item we found, "The velocipede exhibition which we announced in our issue last week, for Saturday evening, did not take place.

It was not the fault of Prof. Sexton that such was the case. On arrival here he telegraphed to Chicago for a velocipede but it was delayed on the route and did not arrive.

Assuming that the performance might take place a week later we searched through the next few issues but found nothing. Possibly the Professor's credit was not good and the velocipede was not shipped.

But we did find a related item; perhaps as a result of Professor Sexton's inability to get a velocipede, a Columbus man had decided to build one. The item reads "Columbus has already placed itself in the front rank of towns. It has manufactured a velocipede. And now of a pleasant evening game some young men may be described overturning themselves into the mud, to the immense satisfaction of an admiring group.

From the frequency and variety of these oversettings we deduce that the velocipede is not a reliable machine; and that when the rider is the most certain of his seat he is very likely to be on the point of sprawling in the middle of the road. That is true nature is not yet generally appreciated, we infer from an inquiry made by a little girl on witnessing its first performance, as to whether it was not the Grecian bend.

Mr. Peter Conlon is the manufacturer of this velocipede, which is a two-wheeled one displaying much ingenuity in its construction.

VELOCIPEDIE



PROF. W. M. H. SEXTON,

The best Velocipedest in the world
Will exhibit at

Whitney House Hall,

SATURDAY EVE., FEB. 27, 1869.

Matinee at 2 1-2 o'clock. p. m.

Admission, - - - - - 25 Cents.
Reserved Seats for Ladies Children half Price.
Doors open at 7 o'clock. Performance to commence at 8

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, MAY 28

INSTALLMENT NO. 402

This column has included a number of pieces pertaining to the Civil War, as it touches our community and area. The most recent of which was the G.A.R. and the two Haskell brothers.

The Civil War has been the background of more books and articles in the past few years, perhaps, than any other single subject.

In installments 54 and 55, that appeared six or more years ago, we wrote about Captain Ira H. Ford, using such material as was available at the time.

Through the courtesy of Mr. W. K. Wright, well known farmer and business man living on Highway 16—on section 30 town of Fountain Prairie, we now have in our possession, temporarily, a copy of a 40-page book entitled, "History of Captain Ford's Life During the Great Rebellion," published in 1908 by Edmund Maxfield, Doylestown, Wisconsin.

It may be that it was based on a diary, for dates are frequently given which we think could not have been purely from memory; if not, some research must have been done to ascertain dates of actual happenings.

Some of the details are gruesome and ghastly, but we have decided to present it just as it was published fifty-one years ago.

From the frequent use of the word "Comrades," we are inclined to believe that it may have been written as a talk to be given to the members of Harvey M. Brown Post 146, of Columbus. This cannot be proven, for as stated in the story of Post 146, no records have been found.

But whatever the motive, the fact of publication, is firmly established. The price of the book is printed on the face of the paper binding. Price 25 cents.

There are so many readers now, who may not have been readers six or seven years ago, that we will republish portions of Captain Ford's biography, published at that time, as a sort of prologue to Captain Ford's History.

Captain Ford's Biography

Ira H. Ford was born in Granville, Vermont, in 1827, son of Caleb and Roxana Lamb Ford. His father Caleb was a boy when Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boy's captured Fort Ticonderoga from the British, and the boy Caleb, was present at the battle.

Ira, when 22 years old joined the 1849ers gold rush bound for California on board a ship sailing around Cape Horn. He worked as a miner, with pick and shovel for about a year, but having saved some money, the second year he bought some dairy cows, and successfully operated a dairy farm during the period of scarcity and high prices, with considerable profit to himself.

In 1852, for reasons not actually known, but it may have been cheap land and opportunity for those who had the money to buy, he came to Columbia County, Wisconsin and was so pleased with what he found, that he bought 200 acres in section 13 and 80 acres, adjoining, in section 14, and became one of the pioneers of that area, which was out about six miles on what was known as the Section Line, now Highway 60, in the town of Hampden.

He continued farming until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he enlisted in the army, and was at once appointed and commissioned Lieutenant by the Governor. Later, being personally known to Governor Lewis who succeeded Governor Solomon, he was put in charge of recruiting duty, and soon had enlistments enough to form Company I, in the 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

He was captured at Shilo, and successively confined at Jackson, Mississippi, and Montgomery, Alabama.

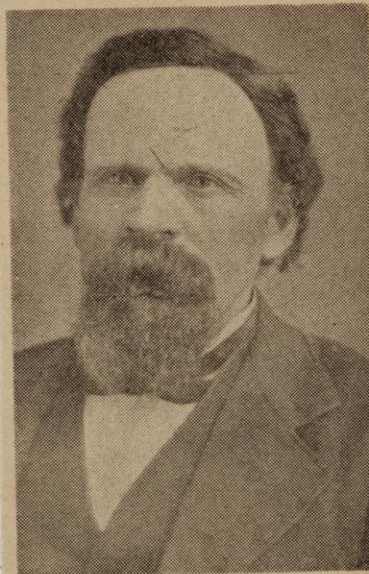
Returning home at the close of war, he resumed farming and was elected to the state assembly for the 1867-68 term.

Captain Ford was three times married; the surviving widow, at the time of his death in August, 1903 was the former Miss Gertrude Erickson, whose parents came from Norway.

To this marriage were born five children, as follows: Ira Jr.; Jessie; C. V. (Val); Ellen and Florence born September 19, 1896, died August 1899.

Ira Jr. became a resident of Goose Prairie, Washington; is married and had three children.

Jessie (deceased) became the



Captain Ford

wife of Paul Welk and mother of three children, Orren, married, no children, lives in Milwaukee.

Hellen is Mrs. Kenneth Johnson. They live in Ossawatimie, Kansas and have two children.

Florence is Mrs. Birkmeyer, lives in Arizona; her husband is dead; she has one daughter and one son.

C. V. (Val) Ford married Miss Geneveve Forley, of Columbus; lives in Milwaukee, has one child, a daughter. Captain Ford's daughter Ellen is the wife of John Kurth Sr.; they have two children, (Eleanor), wife of Adrian Lenz, Columbus and have two children.

John Kurth Jr. was married to Margaret Hermanson and has one child.

He is the owner of a fleet of about a dozen school busses locally.

With the above background of his descendants, we now proceed to record the history of Captain Ira Ford's personal experiences as a soldier in the Union Army during the Civil War, just as it was published in 1908.

(Pix of Captain Ford—

History of Captain Ford's Life During The Great Rebellion

Immediately after the fall of Fort Sumter, Wm. A. Coleman, O. A. Southmayd and myself often met to devise means for raising a company and for seeing if it would be possible for us to so arrange our affairs at home, that we could join the army. We concluded to do so. Then we made up our minds to join the cavalry. It fell on me to go to Fond du Lac to ascertain whether we could join a regiment that was being recruited at that place. But finding the regiment already filled, it was thought best to ascertain in Madison how it would be there. I met the Adjutant General and told him my business. He advised me to recruit a company outside of the Ninth regiment. Then returning, I informed my friends of the advice of the Adjutant General. We concluded to recruit a company, and on the 4th day of September, 1861, we received our recruiting commission.

Immediately afterwards, we called a meeting at the Whitney House in Columbus, notifying F. A. Brewer, Peter McIntyre, and others, to meet with us to complete arrangements for recruiting a company. It was here agreed that we should recruit a company and its name should be the "Lewis Rangers," after Judge Lewis, our honored townsman. We agreed that when a sufficient number of men should be recruited to entitle them to commissioned officers, and they were to be elected by the company. Then recruiting commenced in earnest. Comrades, some of you will remember at that time it required a great effort to procure men for the war. We very soon commenced drilling in what was then known as Farnham's Hall, in squads of four, until our numbers were sufficient to report to the Adjutant General at Madison.

On the 31st of November, 1861, we were ordered to report at Milwaukee. We were sent to a hotel known as the Cross Keys and there to complete organization and also to become more proficient in the drill. On the 14th of January, 1862, the company was completed and the officers chosen, and the company mustered into United States service by Major I. M. Trowbridge, Commandant 16th infantry, mustering officer U. S. A.

We still continued our drill and soon after we, the "Lewis Rangers," were assigned to Company I, 18th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, commanded by Col. James S. Alban, and ordered to report to him at Camp Trowbridge. We there continued our drill until the 21st of March and then received orders to report to the front. We marched from Camp Trowbridge in Milwaukee, down to East Water Street, and followed this street down near the depot. When we came to East Water Street it was with much difficulty that we marched on this thoroughfare, for it was crowded jam full for the whole distance.

This was the rank and file of the 18th regiment. The most of them were from the northern pineries. Men that had been used to hardships. Our colonel was a large, noble looking man as ever led a regiment to battle, and as big and tender a heart as ever bent in the breast of any man. This is only a fair description of all the staff officers of this regiment.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

INSTALLMENT NO. 403

Comrades, you well remember the scenes that transpired, when fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, young men and sweethearts gave their last parting kiss, knowing that the chances of war were between them and their next meeting. One side was going to battle for the best government on this broad earth. The others were to return to fill their own places and also to look after the business that had been attended to by the father, husband or brother just left behind. Just at this time the band struck up the old favorite airs which we all remember so well, "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and "Way Down South in Dixie."

Having received orders to report to the front, on Sunday the 31st of March, we left the state, going by the way of Chicago and St. Louis by rail. At St. Louis, we received our guns and ammunition, and on April 3rd, at ten p.m., left St. Louis on a government transport for Cairo, Ill. From here we went to Pittsburg, and landed April 5th, when we were ordered to report to Gen. B. M. Prentiss, commander of the Sixth division, who was then out near the Shiloh church. There we met some of our townsmen: E. B. Roys, O. D. Traynor, B. F. Sowards, of the 16th Wisconsin Volunteers, and others.

We pitched our tents, or part of them, as we had not time to make the necessary arrangements, and so they piled in promiscuously. Captain Fisk, Co. D and I were ordered to post pickets one half mile in front of our camp, and in doing this it became necessary to pass through some timber. There were thirty men detailed for picket duty. In the posting of pickets we got up quite a scare among some hogs, as we supposed, but afterwards learned of a rebel

lieutenant who was one of the squad, that it was the advanced rebel forces which had been watching the movements of our army all day and of which I will say more of later on.

Everything moved off quietly through the night until about three or four o'clock on the morning of the 6th. We heard firing on the picket line to our right and soon after Gen. Prentiss ordered two companies of the Sixteenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry to move forward and ascertain the cause of the firing. The firing was from the pickets. At five o'clock Col. Alban, of the Eighteenth, ordered the regiment into line of battle. In less than ten minutes the line was formed as far as the eye could see. Firing had then commenced on our right.

As our regiment was not advancing at the time, and I, being curious to know what was in our immediate front, I stepped out to the front of the regiment about five rods to get a sight over the brow of a hill that was in our front, and I climbed upon a stump that stood about two or three feet high. The moment I looked over the hill, I saw three lines of rebel infantry advancing on us and at the same time a rebel bullet cut the shoulder straps from my left shoulder. Comrades, let me say right here that I came down from the stump without being ordered and gathered up my shoulder straps and got back into line.

Firing had commenced along the whole line by this time. Our colonel then gave orders to the company commanders to hold their fire until the rebels should be well over the brow of the hill. The colonel then gave the command to fire, which we did with a vengeance. A good many of our com-

pany fell at that time. The orderly was first to fall, being shot through the head. Thomas Lasky, Edson and many others were killed at that time. We were then about faced and marched back sixty rods to give our support to the artillery, which was then engaged by the enemy.

As we formed this line, Capt. William Coleman, who had been sick ever since we left St. Louis, became entirely exhausted and left his command to me. He went to an old log house that stood near by and about that time a heavy shot came over us, cutting the top off a very large tree that was at least eighteen inches through, twenty feet above our heads, and it fell directly onto the company, barely missing the lieutenant colonel, and as good luck would have it, none were seriously injured. The engagement lasted until about half past nine a.m.

We were then ordered to march by the right flank to support a battery about one-half mile south, and as we were executing that order the firing became terrific and our colonel fell, mortally wounded, and the mortality at that time was great. This was the place where the rebels made eight separate charges upon Gen. Prentiss' division to capture this battery. Our regiment was the first on the left in support of the battery, and this is the place the rebels called the "Hornet's nest." The ravine in front of this line was piled two or three deep with rebel dead. It was during one of these charges that our lieutenant colonel was shot. Our major was pierced through the body by seven bullets, his horse by fourteen, and they were found dead side by side. The adjutant was pierced through the head, but, surprisingly, recovered.



COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

— INSTALLMENT NO. 404

Between the intervals of the charges we found our ammunition becoming short. There had been a mistake made by the men that were detailed to carry ammunition and they had brought us some that would not fit our guns. Capt. Bremmir of Company E, and myself, went to the rear where the ammunition had been unloaded, and while sorting it and getting it ready to carry back to the men, Capt. Bremmir's attention was attracted by the appearance of the rebel flag moving around our left where Gen. Wallis' lines had been, and he made mention of it to me. We then mounted a pile of boxes to get a better view and while looking at that flag manoeuvring, three bullets passed through Capt. Bremmir's clothes and two through mine, supposed to have come from sharp shooters. We were not long in getting back to our respective commands with all the ammunition we could carry. As soon as we saw the rebels forming in three columns for another charge. They charged as usual, but when they had reached about one-half the distance, I saw their leader fall and his horse came dashing through our lines, which caused a great commotion. I learned while a prisoner that this officer was Albert Sydney Johnson, who was in command of the rebel forces in the battle of Shiloh. It took them over an hour to reorganize and complete their charge.

They were repulsed as usual, and fell back, but continued their charge once in about an hour, until the divisions on our right and left fell back to the landing and left our flanks exposed, and we were soon surrounded and ordered to surrender. It was in the last charge that our gallant major fell, also Capt. Compton of Company G, and many others. About this time our color bearer came running up and inquired what he should do with this flag. He was advised by Lieut. Southmayd and myself to take off his coat and wrap the flag around his body. I have since learned that the flag was safely carried through prison and returned to Wisconsin.

I soon learned that Gen. Prentiss had surrendered his divisions amounting to 2,200 men. We were then ordered to fall into line and this was done near a place known as Shiloh Church. We were then relieved of our arms and as many other things as could be found on our person.

At this time they demanded my money, as I had expected, but I had secreted \$87.00 in the hem of

my pants leg before the examination had been made. We were ordered to form in four ranks and were marched seven miles out, to a place called Monterey. Now, comrades I wish to point out the scenes I saw while making this march. Through the fields of the dead, where it had been so sharply contested all that day, the first things that met my gaze were the late battle fields, where the rebels had made so many fierce charges during the day. On this field the dead lay so thick that their bodies nearly touch each other, and to make it still worse, their clothes were being burned from their bodies from a fire that was raging through the leaves, and a little further on we came to a very heavy timber, where the wounded had been placed during the day.

Around every tree for miles, the wounded had been placed until they could be cared for, and such agonies I never had witnessed before. Some, begging to have their lives taken that their miseries might end; others begging for water. It was here that I came on to Thomas Lasky, one of my company, who was shot through the hips in the first volley in the morning. There he lay, begging for help, but I told him we were prisoners and could not stop. He said, "For God's sake, give me some water." The boys came up with their canteens and relieved him, but soon after he died.

We continued our march until we arrived at Monterey, it being now 11 o'clock at night. We were then marched into a plowed field of four acres to remain there for the balance of the night. About one o'clock, April 7th, the thunder and lightning became terrific and soon after the rain fell in torrents, and there we were without shelter, blankets or any means whatever for keeping off the storm. To add more to our miseries, we had not had one mouthful to eat since the evening of the 5th. This was our first introduction to the land of Dixie.

This was the place of rendezvous for commanding officers of the rebel army. There I saw a rebel officer brought, stretched on his back in an ambulance. This man was Beauregard, completely exhausted.

When we gave our names at roll call, there were 22 left out of 107 in my company, and the rest of the companies numbered about the same. Our beloved colonel, lieutenant colonel, major and adjutant, all dead, as we supposed, but afterwards learned that the lieutenant colonel and adjutant partially recovered from their wounds.

The next morning, April 7th, at five o'clock, our army advanced from here on the rebel forces in their front and a general engagement had commenced. About this time the prisoners were ordered into line and received rations, consisting of a small piece of pork and a cracker. It was soon out of sight and we were on the march to Corinth, 20 miles away. We had a very hard time, the roads being very wet and muddy. We arrived in Corinth about four p.m. and went aboard the cars about nine at night, and stayed there until the afternoon of April 8th. We then left Corinth and arrived at Memphis in the morning, April 9th, where we marched into a warehouse and given a few crackers, this being the first we had had to eat for two days.

The next morning a union man came and gave us a good breakfast; after that we were marched to the depot to take the cars for Mobile. The cars we occupied were the same that we use here for shipping hogs and cattle. There were 2,200 prisoners shipped at that time by the way of Jackson, Mississippi. They had telegraphed ahead of us to all of the towns of importance that the Yankee army was captured and would be there at such a time, and this was done to deceive and strengthen their army.

When we arrived at Jackson, Mississippi, the officers there obtained permission to go to a hotel bearing the name Confederate Hotel. The name of the proprietor was Edwards, whom we appealed to for something to eat, as we had been in those cars for two days and nights without anything to eat. We were willing to pay his price for anything. The answer we received from Mr. Edwards was that he had nothing for d - m Yankees to eat. He then ordered us to get out of his house, and our reply to him was that we would call upon him before the war was over; and we kept our promise, as you shall see.

While on our way back to the cars we met an old colored woman, one of Edwards' servants, who was making coffee of wheat. I asked her if I might get some coffee for some sick boys in the cars. She said I could so I went to the cars and procured four canteens, which she filled with coffee and then said that Massar told her to charge one dollar each. I paid her the same and passed it through a small window in the end of the car to my boys, for which they seemed very glad and thankful.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

INSTALLMENT NO. 405

Soon after our train started for Mobile, stopping at all essential places as before. Having reached Mobile in the night of April 13th, we there received some rations — such as they were. There the officers were separated from the privates, and the next day the privates left on a boat for Tuskaloosa, Alabama. When the boat left the harbor it struck up a tune called "Home, Sweet Home," executed upon a steam caliope; afterwards "Dixie" was played, and the favorite Southern air rang out clearly and sweetly. We then realized the true meaning of the song that we had heard sung so often, "Away Down South in Dixie."

The officers were then marched to an old warehouse, where they remained until the morning of April 15th, when they marched aboard the steamer "James Battles" which was to leave for Montgomery, Alabama. They favored us with the same airs that we heard the day before, which brought blood to our eyes, for we well knew it was done to insult us. We arrived at Montgomery on the morning of April 16th.

We then went ashore and marched to the Taylor cotton warehouse, which was a large brick building five stories high, with a small yard in the rear. At this place all officers above the rank of lieutenant, captured in the battle of Shiloh, were separated and sent to some other prison.

We then received rations, which consisted of one pound of corn bread with occasionally a husk left in, ground cob and all; and a small piece of smoked meat, well interspersed with maggots which had suffered death by boiling. This was the third time we had received any rations for a period of ten days. We found lodging at this house, Lieut. Southmayd and myself occupying a place on the third floor near a window facing the main street. Lieut. Southmayd had been sick for a number of days and soon after was taken so much worse that he was taken to the "Ladies' Episcopal Aid Society" having received his favor through the influence of some brother Mason.

On the 17th, order was received from Dr. Owens' to conduct me, accompanied by three rebel guards, to Dr. Owens' headquarters. I was soon taken to a room in the hospital and found Lieut. Southmayd very sick, and I remained there to take care of him. On the 18th, six more officers were brought into the same room of this hospital, one of them being lieut. James Brewer of the Twenty-third Missouri Infantry, who was crazy from the effects of the typhoid fever. As good luck would have it, this assistant surgeon, Dr. Owens, when a boy was a schoolmate of Lieut. Southmayd in Connecticut. He was a true Union man and did all he could for those officers.

This hospital was a very large building, used for the rebel sick and wounded from the field of Shiloh. The lady that waited upon us was a Mrs. Katin, from Tuskaloosa, Alabama. She was uneducated, but naturally bright, but had been taught to believe that all Yankees were demons, with a horn protruding from the center of the forehead. She really believed this to be so, for I noticed when she came in to wait upon us that she would look very sharp to get a glimpse of those awful horns. Her actions were such as led us to believe that she was sincere in her belief, but when she became better acquainted she came to the conclusion that we were human beings the same as her own kind. She did all she could for the sick, by going out and buying delicacies with our money. At first this was unknown to the authorities, but on finding it out, was removed from the hospital on account of taking so much interest in our sick. Before she left, she told me that she had sons in the Fifty-sixth Georgia regiment; one a captain, the other a first lieutenant, at that time at Vicksburg. She wished me, if ever I met them and they were in trouble and needed help, to do the same for them that she had done for us, and this I will make mention of further on.

Lieut. Southmayd, after getting into this hospital and being well cared for, soon after recovered, as did five of the other officers. Lieut. Brewer grew worse all of the time and the surgeon said he could not live. He was so very bad that I had to keep him locked in his room and he continued in this way for two weeks. Then we began to see a change in his favor, although he was the worst sick man I ever saw. His flesh all became pus, which oozed out from all over his body, until there was nothing left but his bones and muscles. His hair falling out from his head was a pitiful sight to behold, but as he slowly recovered strength he began to lay plans what he should do when out of this horrible prison. He always said that no rebel ball was yet made that could take his life, and neither could they take it by starvation in rebel prisons.

Everything continued in this way; the sick were slowly improving. On May 11th I received permission from the surgeon to visit the prisoners which I left in the old warehouse. I visited there for two hours and the sight was horrible to behold. After returning to the hospital I remained there until the morning of the 16th; then we all returned to the warehouse, excepting Brewer, and he was left in care of the Sisters of Charity, who deserve great honor for their patient endurance in relieving the sufferings of the sick.

On the 18th we were taken from the Taylor warehouse, with 6,000 other prisoners, from Tuskaloosa, Alabama, part of them being the same that were taken at Shiloh and left us at Mobile. Comrades, I wish to say that none of you can imagine the feeling that came over us at this time, unless you have been prisoners of war. We were then ordered to fall in, as they claimed we were again to be exchanged (happy thought.) At this time we changed our commander, and this was our first introduction to "Old Wirz," of whose brutalities you have all heard and read.

We were then marched by Capt. Wirz to a prison about one mile from where we had been. This prison was a space of ground about sixteen rods long by ten rods wide. Two sides of this pen had a shed roof, or had had one, for at that time there was not much of it left. There was a well situated near

the entrance, with good water, and here the members of my company who had just returned from Tuskalooosa, and those of the Eighteenth regiment, located ourselves in one corner of the yard. At this time there were a good many men sick and they were given a place in one corner of the prison, under the shed which I have already mentioned. Our men at this time were destitute of clothing and had but a few blankets, as we had none given to us, and ours had been left at Shiloh. There they were, without anything to lay upon except the cold ground, and a poor roof over their heads. The deaths here were very numerous. The first to yield to this inhuman treatment was poor George Dexter of Fall River, as many of you all know. He was rolled up in his old blanket and the next morning taken to his resting place. Let me say that he was as fine a young man as I ever knew.

There were many others in my company very sick; one of them, William Smith, whom many of you knew well, sat there with his lower limbs swollen to more than twice their natural size, and his suffering was great. It was awful to endure, and what was still worse, we could get nothing to relieve his suffering. Every morning we had a roll-call and everyone had to answer to his name or be hunted up. And tvery morning at 8 o'clock we had the death-call, and those so called always shortened our number 10 to 15, and sometimes much more. The suffering of this prison continued in this way until June 3rd. At this time it was hurrah for another exchange. We knew then that there was to be another move, and

accordingly, on the morning of the 4th of June, we were ordered in line and were marched to the depot and were soon on our way for Macon. We found ourselves in box-cars, as usual, and arrived there the evening of the 5th: then we were marched to the old fair grounds, which was situated one mile northwest of the city of Macon. I think there were about ten acres within the enclosure. It was low land and marshy on the east side of this prison. A small, sluggish stream of water, which came from the camp of the guards, passed off the east side of this prison, while the western side was dry and sandy, covered with pitch pine trees. This prison was enclosed with a high board fence some six feet high, boarded up and down. Two rods from the inside of this fence the guards were stationed two rods apart. This was called the dead line. If any prisoner stepped outside of this dead line he was shot without further notice. Quite a number were shot in this way. On the southeast side of this prison was an old shed some fifteen rods long, with a poor board floor, and partly covered with boards. This was used for a hospital for the sick. On the southwest corner of this prison and outside of the fence was the camp of the rebel guards, who were quartered mostly in tents. This prison was commanded by Major Rylander whose brutality surpassed all I ever met. Here we found the officers that were taken from us at Montgomery, burrowed in on the hillside with a large pitch pine tree for their cover. Comrades, I assure you it was a joyful meeting.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

— INSTALLMENT NO. 406

When we got into the prison we found those Shilo prisoners and some two thousand Union Tennessee prisoners and about four thousand of our prisoners that had been captured at different points. When we joined them there were some eight or ten thousand in all. This was where we found the most brutality, the least humanity, most sickness and deaths of all the prisons I have ever seen or read about. The tongue could not express the miseries that one saw while looking upon those human beings; some lying upon the boards, some on the ground, and some without blankets with their bones protruding through the skin, as the flesh had almost wasted away, and their life fast ebbing to its finish. The next time we came around they had passed over the river, and their bodies had been moved down near the entrance of the dead house. There they lay in rows, some of them wrapped in blankets, but there were more lifeless forms which had no blankets, and there they remained until the next morning at 8 o'clock. At this time the drays would pass around and gather them up and take them to a place prepared to receive them, about two miles southeast of our prison. In going there, we had to pass through the outskirts of the city to the brow of a hill next to a point of timber; we came to a long ditch, wider at the top than at the bottom, and here they commenced placing the bodies at the west end of the ditch. They would cover the bodies, all except their feet, and leave the ditch so that they could continue dropping the bodies without any trouble, and without moving any earth. As we approached the place, the flies would swarm out of there for more than five minutes and make a tremendous roaring like bees when they swarm. While here in this prison, most of the time as in Montgomery, I was taking care of the sick and doing what I could to alleviate their sufferings. I was called there by no other name but "Doctor." Major Rylander would make his rounds through the camp at 9 o'clock every morning for roll-call. It always seemed to me that the more misery the better he felt. I will tell a few incidents which took place in this prison, that will always be as fresh in my mind as though they had happened but yesterday.

There was a Union Tennessean, who, before the war was well acquainted with Rylander; they were both Methodist preachers before the war and preached in the same circuit. In Tennessee, the name of the Union man was Elder Newel, and as fine a man as I ever met. He used to make the rounds with me, looking after the sick; I used to make my rounds three times a day. One night the elder and I were making our rounds, when I came up to William Foster, a man whom many of you Comrades well knew. He belonged to the Sixteenth regiment; I think he was in Capt. Roy's company. He was taken prisoner at Shiloh, and had been sick most of the time so that he had become reduced to nothing but skin and bones. Now, for a few minutes, Comrades, go with me to this poor boy, who only a few months before was here and a fine neighbor of mine, who left his father and mother, and sisters, to help save his country.

We now came to his side. At my right stood Elder Newel, and still to the right of him stood Elder Rylander. All of you, Comrades, try to imagine yourselves standing at my left. As we came up to this suffering humanity, we looked at his mouth, only to see his mouth and lips nearly eaten away by flies. His nose all eaten away except the gristle—then while looking at his rolling eyes, flies came buzzing out from behind his eyes. Then I stepped forward and put one hand on his shoulder, and the other on his hip, gently rolling him on his side. There we beheld his shoulder blades protruding through the skin and nothing to hold them there except a cord of muscle that kept the two bones in place. Then passing our eyes down to his hip joint, we found the same as before described.

Then the elder said to the major, pointing off into the distant field where they had been threshing the day before, "Brother Rylander, I wish you to send a guard with some of our prisoners and let them get some of that straw to put under these poor sick men; humanity demands it." The major straightened himself up and said "Brother Newel, when I joined this war I took off the robe of righteousness and put on the robe of blood, and I know no better way to get rid of these damned Yankees than to let

them die in this way: they had no business to be down here." Elder Newel, with tears running down his face, turned away in sadness. No more could I do for this poor neighbor boy, only to give him what little medicine I had for him.

On my journey through the hospital, I came to another one whom many of you must know well. Do you remember Peter Mead, who at the time of his enlistment, lived one mile north of my home? He was as perfect a young man in every way as you often see.

Now, to describe this so you can all see it in mind, imagine you see this soldier who passed through that horrible battle, which I described before, the battle of Shiloh. Here you find him, resting his body against an old pitch pine tree and his lower limbs swollen as large as a stove pipe. They were all cracked open, with yellowish matter oozing from those cracks; there was nothing to alleviate his pain except to bathe them in cold water with sometimes a little salt. An old threadbare blanket lay by his side to cover the swollen limbs.

I have seen thirty bodies in a single day carried to their resting place.

I wish to mention here what I saw taking place in this prison. It may sound very strange to some of you, but I think there are some who have witnessed the same. I would mention Comrade Williams as one. There was Lieutenant Jackson, who belonged to the Fourteenth Iowa regiment. I asked him one morning to make the rounds through the hospital with me as there was many from his regiment sick. He said he would be pleased to do so. We started on our trip; when we got to the place in the hospital where the Fourteenth Iowa men lay sick, we found two of the officers dead and others very sick. I noticed it affected him very greatly and he gave up all courage when he saw the miseries and suffering of those all about him. Lieutenant Jackson went to his quarters feeling very bad. About 1 o'clock p.m. he sent for me to come to his quarters; I went,

and found him very sick, and he gave me a letter to send to his wife, if I ever should get into God's country again, as this is what prisoners always called the North. We then took him down to the hospital, and at 3 o'clock he breathed his last. This was caused by what he saw. To all appearances, when we started to make the round, he was just as well as I was. The next morning, I, together with Lieutenant Southmayd, received permission from Major Rylander to follow the remains to the ditch. At 8 o'clock the dray came and eleven had passed over the river to answer their last roll-call since the morning before. When Lieutenant Jackson was to be laid in his last resting place, I asked leave to place him on the dray. It was refused, and this seemed to raise the anger of the Confederates, and they took special pains to give him an extra jam. The dray moved on. Lieutenant Southmayd and myself fell in behind them, and after us four guards with fixed bayonets. This made up the procession which was to follow the eleven comrades to their final resting place. As we wound our way on the outskirts of the city we passed a large, elegant mansion; three ladies came out on the veranda and waved white handkerchiefs in each hand, thereby making demonstrations of joy. We soon arrived at the ditches, where flies filled the air, and the stench was fearful. They buried them in the same manner as heretofore described. Having returned we received our rations. We received one pound of corn meal ground, cob and all, and a piece of bacon, which was filled with what we called "white cans," but better known as maggots. We also receiv-

ed one half pint of beans twice a week, and the same amount of rice one a week. I never saw any white bread while in Macon. We did our own cooking while at this prison; we were formed in squads of ten or twelve; our outfit for cooking consisted of one kettle, one spider and a tin cup for each one; our whole squad possessed only two knives and two forks; there were only a few axes to cut wood for the whole camp. Things moved along in this way until everything looked very discouraging. At last rumor came to us that Beauregard and Buell had agreed on terms of exchange. On the 18th of June they came to our prison for that purpose. Comrades, it would have done you good to see the faces of those prisoners brighten up. Soon the order was given for all to fall in line to answer to their names, except prisoners from Tennessee and the officers captured at the battle of Shiloh. This struck us fellows square in the face, our courtenances fell back to their former expression, with the exception that they were a little more gloomy, if possible. Soon those ordered were in line. Many were taken forward on their blankets, unable to walk, and still others were taken forward dead, having dropped away, overcome with joy.

I assure you that it did me much good to see the poor starved prisoners start on their way to God's country. Lieutenant Southmayd and myself now were the only ones left of our company. I felt as though I wanted to take any chance that would be offered to me to make my escape, even if that chance were not more than one in a hundred.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JULY 2

— INSTALLMENT NO. 407

I approached Lieutenant Southmayd and told him what I thought of doing. Such things had to be very private, for they kept a rebel soldier in this prison all the time, who pretended to be a Union soldier so that he could report all that was said and done. There were many who tried to make their escape, but their plans were most always broken up. Such spys were very soon exchanged after we found it out. We always made it hot for them. Lieutenant Southmayd said that he would be very glad to try to escape, but his health would not permit him. I asked him if he would be willing for me to leave him there. He told me that he would, under one condition, and this was, that if ever I got through safely I was to go to Washington and do all in my power to bring about his exchange. Of course, that I expected to do, and I then went to work with a will. I spoke to a fellow that had just been brought in called Albert Pike, but that was not his right name. He had been detailed from an Ohio Michael Scouts, who was just operating near Chattanooga. He had helped to burn seven carloads of bacon and had been taken prisoner. We laid our plans and drew two maps of the route which we would take on our way to Atlanta, Georgia. From there we intended to go to Cleveland, Tennessee. Our army was near there at that time; this distance was some two hundred miles. We then received from negroes things that we would need on our way, which consisted of a small iron kettle, one cup, salt, pepper, matches, and a poker to guard ourselves against blood-hounds, which were kept there for the purpose of catching escaped prisoners. When we had all of our arrangements completed, we then devised some way to make our escape. We finally settled upon this plan. We would run the guard the first foggy night that came.

There was one guard whom we found to be a good Union man, and willing to do all he could for the prisoners. Such men were watched very closely. We told him, the first night he was on duty, that we would make our escape by running the guard, when he was near the farther end of his beat and before he turned around. The other guard on his right would be in the same position, their beats being two rods apart. I was to give this Union man notice just before we made

our start as I would pass just in front of his beat and uncover my head. He was not to make any alarm unless the other guard fired. In that case he should fire, but high above our heads.

The stockade, two rods to his rear, was made of posts in the ground, eight feet apart, with two-by-fours nailed to the posts and boards six feet long nailed to them. Just outside of this stockade, some two rods back, there was a big swamp, heavily covered with canebrake and so very thickly grown that it was with much difficulty that one could make his way thru the swamp. There was a large pine tree some two miles west of this prison, which I supposed while in prison, was out of the city entirely. Of this pine tree and its importance I will speak later on.

Going back to our plans of escape—after having completed everything, I took a sad farewell of Southmayd. You can never know how very hard it was to part with such a kind friend as I found in him, and to leave him in such a miserable place as that was. Well, I knew if he became sick or in great distress that he would obtain help through his brother Masons.

When the last arrangements were completed, I passed the guard and slightly raised my hat. In less than five minutes we were making our strike for liberty. It was the understanding between us that we should make our way to the canebrake as quickly as possible and that the one behind was to follow the other one into the brake. The trial proved that Wisconsin took the blue ribbon from Ohio. If Pike had been in prison as long as I had been he would have made better time. There were three guns fired at us, one just as we got to the stockade, and two just as I scaled the top. They were apparently hunting for some other Yankee as they passed by us. Some of you might wish to know how we managed to get over this stockade. I will tell you how I made the climb. With my outfit tightly strapped about me, I went up to the the stockade said to be six feet high. I reached hold of the top, swung myself over and struck on my feet, nice as a pin. Pike came down with a crash, standing nearly on his head and uttered a fearful grunt. I asked him if he was hurt, but he told me he was not. I straightway plunged into the canebrake, supposing that Pike was close behind me. When in the swamp, I

thought I heard him at my right; I went a little further, halted a moment and called his name, but there was no answer. I then made for the pine tree. It was quite a task as the mud was deep and the canebrake very thick; always in fear of the hounds being on my track, I increased my speed and soon got to the old pine tree as agreed upon. The dogs did not trouble me, nor did I find Pike there. It did not take me more than an hour to reach the old pine tree. Here I spent the worst night of my prison life. I was so anxious to make the distance between me and the prison as far as possible, as I knew what was likely to take place the next morning. There I waited in awful suspense until the dawn of day began to glimmer in the east and the chickens commenced their crowing. There was no other way but for me to leave Pike and to proceed on my journey alone. I had lost ten precious hours at least. When ready to start I found that I was hemmed in on the north and on the west, and north was the way I wished to go, with hedges, whose prickles or pins made them a perfect guard against anything passing through them, except a live Yankee. I thought of a plan and put it in force at once. I took my blanket, wrapped it around my body tight and then plunged through. I soon found myself in the guard and all right. Three times more I had to make the same effort and then found myself free to go just the direction I wished to make, which was a little west of north. In that direction there was quite a good deal of timber, with rolling lands, and with roads crossing at right angles. I now started to get out of sight before everything was on the move. I think at this time, the sun was making its appearance. I was over five miles on my route at this time. I heard voices in front of me and I listened; I soon saw two negroes on a road that I would soon have to take; I ran through the underbrush, bent low and watched closely for every moving thing. I began to think of home, and I knew that I had to have something to eat. I knew it would be safe to hail these darkies, if I could do it without any rebel knowing it. I got near the road where I could take a full survey, and then I gave a sharp whistle; both darkies looked around and I motioned for them to come to me; in less than one minute they were both at my side.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JULY 11 — INSTALLMENT NO. 408

I said, "I am a Yankee; one of you go to a place where you can watch and I want to talk with one of you." "Oh! yes sir," he replied. Then I told him what I wanted and he informed me that he lived only one mile back here, right on my road and said that he would go back with me. He said that his master was in the army, so there would be no danger of my being seen. We were soon at the house and they were doing the best they could for me. When they called me in to eat, I asked the old lady if it was safe for me to eat inside. She said, "Yes, this house is back from the road, and I have a girl outside watching to see if any one comes." There on the table before me, fixed in fine shape, was corn bread, sweet potatoes, fried pork and some milk. I dared not eat a full meal for fear that it might make me sick, so I ate in a few minutes and was ready for another start. The darkey woman put up some victuals in a little bag for me to take along. The man who came back with me had been watching outside for my safety all of this time. He then told me of two places on the road where I could stop and get something to eat, and said that they would do all they could to help me. I thanked them and offered to pay them, but they would not take one cent. This was just the way I always found the darkies. Again I started on my way and had gone many a mile, when I heard the howling of hounds in the distance; this only spurred me on to swifter speed and I came upon a running stream. Thinking that here I might find a way for throwing the dogs off their scent, I waded down the stream for a few rods and then crossed to the opposite shore. Nearer and nearer approached the eager hounds, and in spite of the effort I had taken to evade them by the stream, they followed in my footsteps. Feeling that danger was near at hand, I prepared myself to meet the dreaded foe. There were three hounds in the lead, the first one sprang for my throat, I jumped to one side and struck him with my poker over the head, killing him.

The second one received the same treatment, but was only stunned but the third one cowered down in fear. At this instant I saw a man approaching; with a sudden halt, he drew his gun to his shoulder. I called to him, "If you shoot me you are a coward for I have nothing to defend myself with but a poker." Lowering his gun, he came up to me and said, "I would not have shot you, I am a Union man and will prove it to you before we part; I stand in danger for there are eighteen rebels back of us who will soon be here." At this instant, the rebels came upon us. One of the number was a rebel lieutenant who lost an arm at the battle of Shiloh. He told me that he fought all day and lost his arm just at night, and that he was there all day Saturday, right in front where he could see Prentiss when they had their dress parade and when the new regiment came at night. While they were putting out their pickets they nearly ran on to a squad of us, who were sent there to find out how many new regiments came in that night. He told me that General A. S. Johnson, their leader, was killed in the afternoon about 3 o'clock while leading a charge in person to take that battery in Prentiss' division at the place which we called the "Hornet's Nest."

Now, this rebel lieutenant took me in charge and the others all dispersed except three other guards

which he kept to accompany me back to prison. He informed me that a distance of twenty-seven miles lay between us and our destination. Try to picture in mind the strange procession that moved slowly back toward the old prison. An old wagon drawn by one horse, carrying four rebel officers, the Union man with whom I held the first encounter, and one prisoner. When we got about ten miles on the road, this Union man told the lieutenant that he wished to stop one minute to see his mother. Before he had reached the house he met his mother, a very old lady, on her way to see who was coming. I think the son had planned this with his mother, for when she got to this lieutenant, she opened

a fearful volley on him. She told him that this man was fighting for just what our forefathers had fought for, and just what her father had fought for, and that he was trying to ruin the best government on earth. She implored them to turn me loose, but all in vain. We were soon moving towards Macon, at which we arrived at 9 o'clock p.m. July 27, 1862. I then received some handcuffs and was placed in a tent with four guards to keep me company. I will here repeat some of the insults thrust upon me. One guard would say to the other, "That is a fatlooking Yank, I should like to make him up into soap" and just such slander I heard all night long. I think if they had gotten me to quarrel with them, I would have been shot before morning. The next morning I was taken out of this tent and put into a small tent, where there was a big pile of bacon, which was constantly on the move. This comprised the rations for our men in prison. I was left there for twenty-four hours, until they could send to Atlanta, Ga., for some larger shackles than they had at this prison. When these came I was marched to Rylander's headquarters, where this set of jewels, better known by the name of shackles, were then placed upon my ankles by Rylander. He took off the wrist shackles (but forgot to give me the key). I was then taken into the prison where I had taken my leave of absence three days before. Comrades, I shall always think that if I had undertaken this escape alone I would have made it all right.

Now, I will tell you what happened to the man who made his escape with me. When he came down from the stockade and lit on his head it left him a little confused, and so when he got into the swamp, he had to hold on to something. He soon made a start for the old pine tree (by the way, I never liked to look at that old pine tree after my return), but he got turned around and went the opposite direction. He finally became sick and crawled under a house into a cellar. The next morning he went above as he was so very sick. There he found a widow

lady whose sympathies were with the Union. She cared for him for two weeks, until he had recovered and attempted again to continue his escape, but he was taken sick again, and give himself up to be brought back to prison. This was his report to me after our meeting again in prison. Here I found my old partners in misery, just as I had left them three days before, and I had been off and had a lively time. I think it did me much good on the whole. The effort had strengthened my muscles; I had gotten something to eat, had seen the old Union lady, and it all gave me new courage to endure the chains which awaited me as a reward. Those chains I am now

speaking of, you could not buy today for five hundred dollars a pound.

Now, my next business was to get those chains from my ankles. There was a negro that used to come into prison who could read and write. I wrote on a slip of paper what I had to have and the next time he came around he handed me a key. This key fitted all right, only there was a bulge on the stem of the key that would not let the stem of the key into the lock far enough to hold it so that I could pull the spring to unlock it. This negro got me a file and I soon had the key in working order. I might mention right here that when I returned back to prison I found a prisoner by the name of Lieutenant Randolph of the Eleventh regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, who sympathized with me in the wearing of shackles. He succeeded in keeping away from prison eight days during his escape.

I wish to tell you now of one thing that happened soon after I returned to prison. There had been hogs that used to come through from the rebel camp. We had often tried to devise some means of getting some of them which looked fine and quite heavy. They were very tame and would walk all around our feet. I told Lieutenant Southmayd all about the luck I had had with that big hound, and when that hog which we had feasted our eyes upon came around again I would just show how I did it. We had hardly finished our conversation when we noticed just a little way off, those hogs coming along. I told those in my quarters, Captain Fisk whom many of you knew, being one of them, that I was going to have some fresh pork for dinner and they must be ready to take the skin off in two minutes. The hog came right up to our quarters, and I placed myself a little in front. The hog was

coming in from behind my quarters and so my back was turned towards him. They moved right in all around me, and when the one that we were laying for got in just the right place, up went the poker and when it came down, the hog came down without a squeal. That instant my jack knife severed the arteries and the blood flowed into a hole which had been prepared to receive it. Well, Comrades, I was then a hero, and you would have thought there were ten more heroes if you had seen them taking the skin off from that hog and had seen Captain Southmayd and myself watching for rebels. When we had nearly completed the job, who should we see but General Winder, Captain Wirz and Rylander, three of the meanest men that ever lived, without any exception coming up to our quarters. I suppose Rylander was bringing them there to see me and to let them know that he was following in their footsteps. I thought as our dinner was not quite ready and our convenience not very good, we would not entertain them, so I stretched myself out in front of the rest with my chains very prominent. I noticed they looked on with much pride as they walked by. That didn't make any difference with the pig under the blanket. They had soon passed on and business commenced in haste, the skin off and everything buried and cleaned up in nice shape. I think we had over 150 pounds of nice fresh pork, and most all of the prisoners got a piece of this meat. There were not many prisoners left at this time. The next morning I saw a rebel going around the prison and I knew at once what he was looking for, but I don't think he found his hog.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, JULY 16

— INSTALLMENT NO. 409

On the 8th of August, word went through prison that we were going to be exchanged, and all felt well, but not one of us believed that report, as we had been told that so many times before. The next morning at 9 o'clock we were ordered to fall in line to go to the depot a mile and a half away. I could not make it in two hours in my shackles, so Lieutenant Randolph and myself would not walk, but told the sergeant to send a dray. He did so and we piled onto the dray and were soon on the train in box-cars as before. Just as the cars were ready to move out, Major Rylander came to the door of our car and inquired for Lieutenants Ford and Randolph. We had heard him make the same inquiry at the other car and I knew what he was after, so when he came to our car, he got this answer, very quickly, "Look ahead in the next car." Then the cars began to move and when my car passed Rylander we waved him an "affectionate farewell." We were then taken to Atlanta, Georgia. Just as we arrived there, six Yankees stood in line, blind-folded, and they were soon shot. We did not know but that we were to share the same fate. I think they would have had a nice time if they had attempted any such a thing. We were then marched around town, then back to the train, and were soon on the move. We went from there to Madison, Georgia. From here we were marched out some three miles north to an old factory building, constructed of red brick; this had a stockade on every side about the same as the one at Macon, and was under command of Major Calhoun. He was a nephew of the old Senator Calhoun from South Carolina. Here we found about two hundred Tennesseans; then those that came with us, making some four hundred, besides the Shiloh prisoners. Right west of this prison the guards were in camp in tents. A. A. Southmayd and myself spread our blankets under the window in a corner of the second floor; quite an improvement on Macon. Our rations were just the same as at Macon, only they were cooked here in big kettles, swinging from an iron crane. Many a

time I have stood by the stockade, watching through the cracks in the boards, to see those negroes boil our meat. This meat was what had been in its day, bacon. The flies had been on it and it had become completely filled with "white caps." Then they had rolled it in ashes to hold it as long as they could. You that have ever made soap from grease which had been rather neglected, and have watched the different changes, can guess something about how our meat looked here. The meat was taken from that ash pile and put into the kettles without ever being washed. It was taken from the kettles with a large iron fork, placed upon wooden trays and brought to a large sink, provided for that purpose. Here the meat was cut into rations. The prisoners were divided into messes of eighteen each, and the meat was divided by a sergeant into as many piles as there were messes, and the negro cooks brought them to each mess. We here had boards strung along the whole length of the room, which answered for a table. Our meat was given us twice each day, morning and evening. Our corn pone, once a day; a small mess of beans, twice a week; and rice only once a week. After we had been in this prison about three weeks there were 28 officers from a Massachusetts regiment, who lived in Boston, came. They were dressed very tony, having just come from home, and looked fine, as all officers did with their new uniforms. Their mess was located near us and to our left. At supper time everything moved as usual; our rations came as we were always ready for them. Then came the rations for these new prisoners. Our mess had gotten nearly through with their meal and were watching the movements of those to our left. The meat was laid upon the board; these officers came up and looked at it, turned it over, and then took out their knives and forks, which they had not yet been robbed of; one by one they picked up their piece of meat and when they began to open their mouths, the next thing in order was to see if they could get their boots up through their stomachs. One caught it from the

other and in less than five minutes everyone was heaving for all they were worth. They had lost more than they would get here in one week. Comrades, you men think I am putting it a little strong, but if I were to fetch a tray full of that same meat and place it here before you and go to moving it around where you would have a fair view of those maggots, I think I would see you sympathizing greatly with those tony Boston officers. But, Comrades, the best is yet to come. Those rations were turned over to my mess and I assure you there were no stomachs turned wrong side out in this mess. But those officers soon got over it and the same thing often happened while in prison. We had but a few sick and those that were sick had their particular friends to care for them. That left me without anything to do and I could never stand that. I always thought that I was possessed with an unusual amount of ingenuity, but what was I to work with? I had a jack knife, handle shot off at Shiloh, one case knife, a spoon and tin cup, quite an outfit for a tinker. In the first place, I gave one of the crooks some money and told him to get a file in town the first chance he had. The first night it came I was ready for business. I made a saw of the back side of my case knife, which worked nicely and the first thing I made was a stiletto. My brother prisoners came round and saw what I was doing and in less than a week this prison was turned into a regular machine shop, and more than one hundred at work from early dawn until the darkness of the night prevented their work. Bones became very scarce. They were gathered for miles around. A ring with the American flag upon the face of it, would send any negro for miles in search for bones. Comrades, you can't imagine what a business it amounted to. Only think, I made a knife and fork for which, when finished, I was offered by Lieut. Qm. of the Fourteenth Iowa regiment, twenty dollars in gold and I could have sold it to more than twenty different ones, but brought it home with me, together with the poker and iron shackles.

I would say I think this work made a great change in prison life. Through it many prisoners' lives were saved and I know it brought many a relief to those sick and despondent. I made a ring for Major Calhoun and gave it to him. I also gave the sergeant one and in this way won their favor. If I wanted a guard to take me to a spring outside, I was never refused. There used to be negroes over near the depot with wagon loads of watermelons. The orders were that they should take none to the prison. One day I saw them out there and I asked the sergeant

for a guard to take me out there. The favor was given me and I went out and bought a bushel basket full and had them carried into the prison. They only cost one ring. In this prison we had professional men who were able to build every conceivable thing from a hand rake to the nicest engine now in use. This bone business was continued until we left Madison, Ga. At this prison one thing happened which I will mention here. There was a sergeant that used to attend to the front gate. Guards were on the outside. One day this rebel sergeant appeared with a small rebel flag on top of his hat, and on the body of the flag was written "Sophia M. Miller." I used to scuffle with this sergeant and fool with him quite a good deal when he was off from duty, and I at once made up my mind to capture that flag. I slipped up to him and stole that flag, and was soon upstairs very busily engaged with work. After awhile he went all through the prison and was looking for that flag. Nothing said. Soon after, I went down and asked him what he had done with his flag. He said: Some damned Yankee has stolen it," and he said that he would give him until the next day to return it or he would make an air hole through him, for he knew who had got it. But no Yankee owned up, and no air holes were made. Now comrades, for another branch of the service.

Everything moved on in this way as I have described, until about the middle of October, we made up our minds that we were going to make a break for God's country. There were twenty-four prisoners who knew this secret. There was a committee appointed to complete these arrangements and plan details for making a tunnel. Under this factory, at the east end, was a large engine and the earth had been removed for nearly one-third of the length of this building. There had been posts set and boarded up just inside of this partition. We decided upon the east side for starting the tunnel. The earth had been taken out to the depth of ten feet, which left it in nice shape for starting the tunnel. There had been a board removed on the west end of this partition, that could be taken out and placed back, and would show no sign of it being removed. We kept four men at work all the time, night and day, and two men to look out for rebels. We got one kettle from the engine to carry the dirt in, and we opened canteens and used the sides to dig the dirt with. We made a sort of a shovel from some boiler iron that worked quite good. We dug this tunnel, 84 feet long, from the cellar basement to the outside, on the east end of the stockade and away from everything. On Saturday, three weeks from the beginning of our work on this construction, we were to make our grand move.

There was a train of cars which came here each morning at nine o'clock. There were men among us who had run engines and had made them. There were never more than a very few passengers on this train unless they were moving an army. We had made all arrangements to make a break through our tunnel, capture the guard, take their guns and all of their ammunition, cut the telegraph wires, capture the train and run it as far as possible toward our lines; then every man for himself. This was one plan. We had another plan, which was to escape through the tunnel and everybody for himself. But I think the former would have been the plan adopted. The way was to be decided on the day after the tunnel should be completed.

WHEN GRANDPA WAS A BOY



The Story of . . .

COLUMBUS

By F. A. STARE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 — INSTALLMENT NO. 409

We then went on to the negro quarters. Here we found everything very nice. In front, on the south end of the street, there was a large two-story house, on each side of the street, running north, there was a store, blacksmith shop and grist mill. Still back of these there were some nice stables for horses and cattle.

Come back with me to the main house and then go south some ten rods and there stands a large building, firmly constructed. This was their smoke house. To the left of this was a building, 12x16, used for punishing their negroes. We found three negroes here in stocks. One had been whipped to death and was lying there, all blotched up; the other two were terribly mangled by the lashes. We then went back to the overseer and asked him if he had anything our army could have to eat, as we were without rations. He said the Confederates had taken everything they had, only a few potatoes out there in that kiln. I asked him for the key to that smoke house, but he objected. I told him that he was a prisoner and I would give him just two minutes to unlock that house. We found that large building plumb full of very nice bacon. There was a negro boy that told me, if I would take him with me, he would show me where there was more than we could haul in one month. I told him he could go with us. He then took me off nearly one mile into some canebrake, and there we found more than we could haul away. We went back to the negro quarters and from there we took seven horses, four loads of bacon, two loads of potatoes, the two men that were wounded and the overseer and one helper. When we got down to Mason's, we took him also, and returning to camp, we marched the two overseers to Gen. Grant's headquarters and told him what we had seen. There were more than three hundred negroes who followed us to camp. Our government teams were hauling rations from Mason's plantation for more than one week.

We were obliged to remain here for a few days on account of high water. From here were moved to Bayon Baxter, and then back to Lake Providence. Comrads, if you keep track of the Eighteenth regiment and notice how we were back and forth, you will see how we were put through. On the 21st we moved from Lake Providence up the river six miles; March 29th, down the river again; April 21st to Milliken Bend; on the 28th to Richmond, La., and from Richmond to Perkin's Landing. On the 8th of May we arrived at Grand Gulf, where we fell in line and fought lively for about an hour, and succeeded in routing the rebels. After a few days' journey from Grand Gulf, we got within five miles of Raymond, and there came upon the rebels in full line of battle. Here we gave them another lively time for about two hours.

We then marched through Raymond, and here found a large church filled with the wounded. We marched to Clinton on the railroad running from Vicksburg to Jackson, and at Clinton we met the enemy. We lay on our arms all night and at early dawn we changed the enemy. On May 14th, at Clinton, we found their skirmish line nearly equal to a line of battle. They gradually fell back about five miles toward Jackson, Miss.

We there found them behind rifle pits, with heavy artillery in the center, and on the right and left. It was about ten o'clock in the forenoon and had been raining as hard as it could pour since early morning. As we approached them the firing became terrific all alone the line. This battle took place in an open field with the enemy in plain sight. We continued our march, firing all the time, as we charged on their rifle pits. They fell back until within one mile of the city of Jackson. There they were heavily fortified with one large fort. The rebel army had been heavily reinforced the night before with soldiers from South Carolina. The result of this battle was a terrible slaughter, for there was many a soldier that lost his life by the bayonet. The enemy broke in confusion and fled through the city. They were followed so

closely that they ran their artillery guns through front yards and against houses; cannons turned bottom side up, and dead horses lay strewn all over the town. Everything was in perfect confusion. Our brigade placed the flag on the capitol at Jackson.

Comrades, remember that I told you how we stopped at Jackson when prisoners, and went to the Confederate hotel and tried to buy something to eat? The proprietor, named Edwards, said: "Get out of here, you damned Yankees; I will give you nothing." Our last words were that we would call upon him again. This was just one year later. Eighteen of the same prisoners from the Eighteenth regiment marched into this Confederate hotel and called for something to eat. Edwards replied that the Confederate army had been there and robbed him of everything to eat. We then told him to go to the deuce with his Confederate army and that we would give him just thirty minutes to give us as good a supper as ever he put on his table, and if he failed in the least thing we would string him up as we would a dog. Then we told him that we were here one year ago, the 12th day of April, and that we were then prisoners, but not today. Before we got through, thirty-two more of those same prisoners came in and I assure you we had a big time that night.

This man Edwards had a cellar about 30 feet square. One room in this cellar was filled with the choicest liquors, ham, eggs and everything that you could imagine. This was the headquarters for the rebel officers. Our soldiers cleaned him out of everything he had that night. Everybody was happy, except Edwards, and I think he was the next morning, as his hotel was burned to the ground.

At five o'clock the next morning our army faced about and started back the same way that we came the day before. We were now on our way to Vicksburg. We marched four miles beyond Clinton and went into camp for the night. It was now the 16th of April and

we started at seven o'clock in the morning for Champion Hill. Arriving there at ten o'clock we fell into line of battle and were soon engaged. I wish to explain here the ground upon which this battle took place. There was a high ridge which ran for miles from the northeast to the southwest, mostly covered with timber, with occasionally a small open field upon one side. In an open field, next to the timber, there had been an old

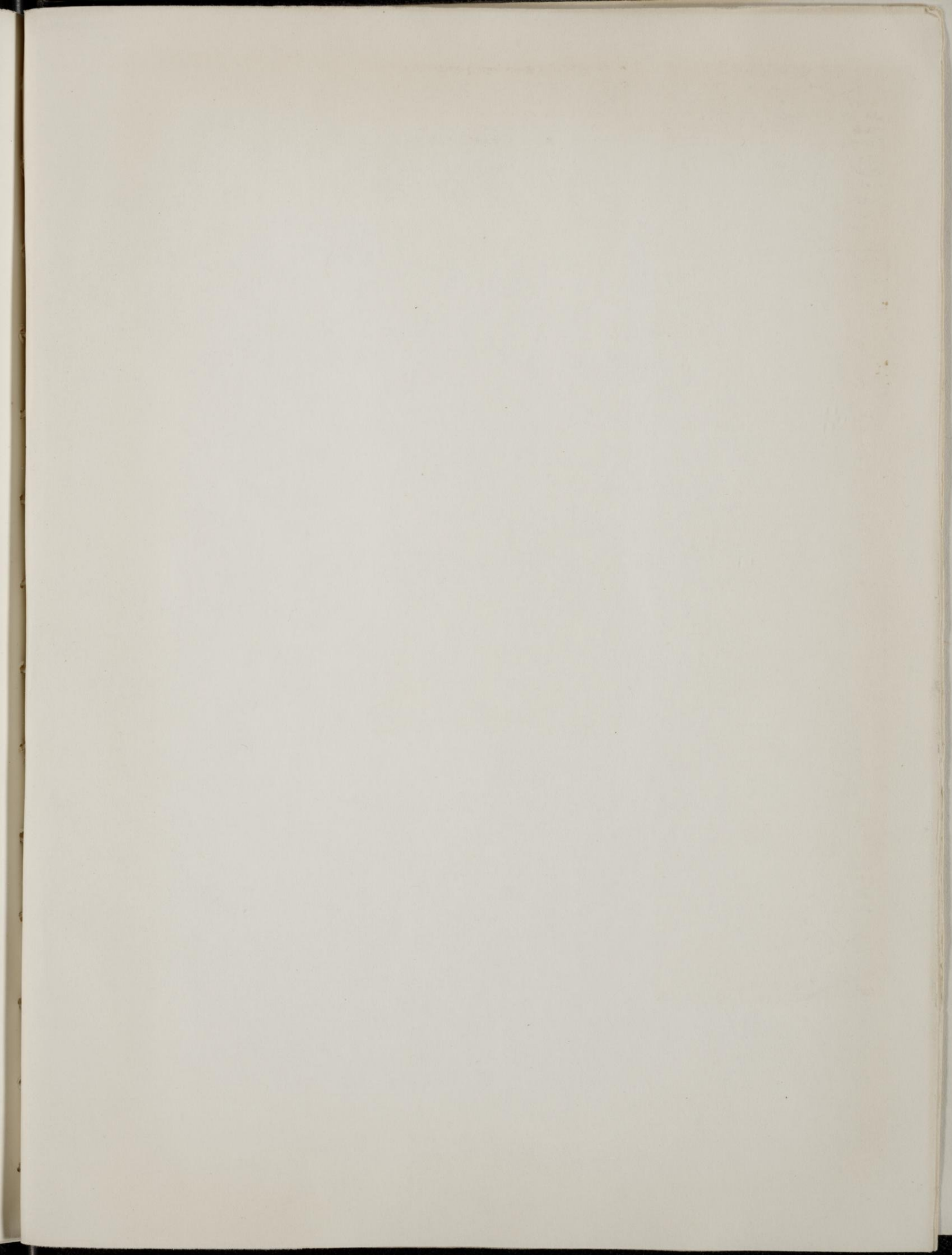
log fence. More to our left, where it was open field on both sides, there was a regular rail fence. As our division stood drawn up under the brow of the hill some twenty rods from this old log fence, Gen. McPherson came riding in front of our line. He spoke to our column, saying: "I have just placed twelve batteries there to your right, and near the timber, which you will soon hear from; these you must support." The batteries were placed so that they had an inflating fire both ways in front of this timber. Our corps commander had not been past more than ten minutes before the awfulest yelling I ever heard came up from behind that old log fence, and over it the rebels came by the thousands, and at the same time those batteries belched forth their grape and cannister. Shot and shell filled the air and still the enemy came. Until now our lines had all been hugging the ground. When the rebels came within ten rods of us, we loaded our guns while lying upon our back, and then, all at once, we arose and fired. There were no rebels left in sight. They fled in three columns over this old long fence, into the woods. Soon they came again and met the same fate as before. They tried it three different times. Then came our turn to make a charge. We carried everything before us, and captured 2,500 men with cannon and many other things. On this field the rebel dead lay very close together. I came up to a Georgia soldier, whom I knew by his uniform, and asked him what regiment he belonged to. He said, "to the Fifty-sixth Georgia." I then asked, "Do you know Capt. Katins?" He replied that he was his captain and that he lay dead down in the ravine. I then asked for Lieut. Katins. He said that he was wounded and was down in a building which they were using for a hospital. He then went with

me to his captain and I took from the lifeless form his watch, pocket book and memorandum. Then we went to the lieutenant. I told him who I was, at the same time gave him his brother's things, and told him to be sure and take them to his mother. She was the lady who waited upon us at prison in Montgomery, Alabama, and who thought all Yankees had horns. I then went to the surgeon and he conducted me to the lieutenant. I told him what I had agreed to do and how kind his mother had been to all the prisoners. I asked the surgeon to do all he could for this man. He said they would soon be paroled. Adjutant Coleman of our regiment, was wounded and in this hospital, and I told him about this lieutenant. He promised me that he would look after him.

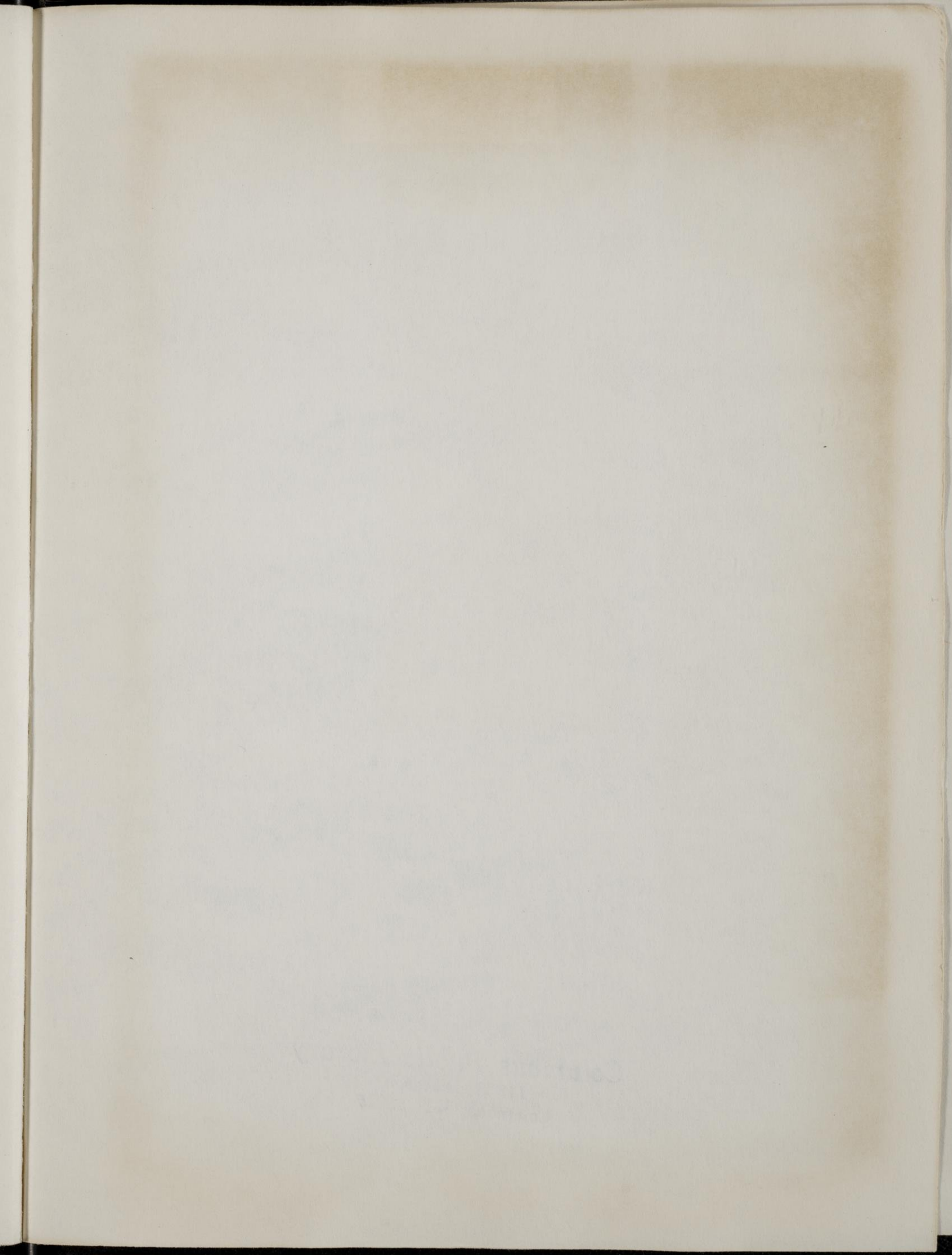
Now, comrades, this was a very hard fought battle — one of the hardest ones of the war, for so short a battle. I had a very close call here. My sword belt was shot off and two balls pierced my coat. McPherson's loss in this fight was 410 killed, 1844 wounded and 187 missing.

The enemy turned back for Vicksburg. We came up with them at Black River bridge, about seven miles from Champion Hill and there gave them another fight. Many rebels were drowned that night. The rebels burned the bridges across Black River, but our division built a pontoon bridge that same night. We constructed it of cotton bales from an old warehouse, and at midnight it was completed and our army was crossing.

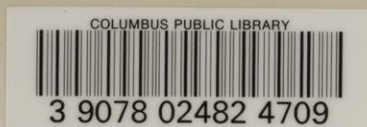
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