

Finale of 'Old Cemetery' Series; Book to be Published This Week

Herewith, after an interval of several months, appears what was originally planned as the final installment of John Boose's "Old Cemetery Series," the conclusion to the Meridian-Weis-Apfel cemetery story, and the ninth and last article, dealing with the old Webster graveyard, probably the first one on the west side of Marshall county to be put into use.

The series, it will be remembered, began last October, and was a project of the Marshall County Historical society, though written and edited by Mr. Boose himself; it was planned that after writing up the old cemeteries of particularly Henry and Whitefield townships, other members of the society would "take over" with those townships with which they were more familiar than he was. This last is still "in the planning stage," and may provide interesting reading for our subscribers this coming fall and winter. Mr. Boose himself, however, is gathering material for a partial resumption of his own writing, on cemeteries of certain other townships which have no representative members in the society.

Booklet Being Published

It will also be remembered that a great many readers became so interested in the original series, that they commenced clipping out the articles as they appeared, and making "scrap-books" of them. Learning of this, the author decided to have all the type saved from week to week, with the intention of publishing the whole series in booklet form, on a good grade of paper. During the several months intervening, since the appearance of the last published article, he has been busy editing and revising the text of the original articles, adding considerable information that has come to him since first writing them, and also many corrections supplied by interested readers, so that when it is released, it will be as accurate and complete as possible. It will be a most valuable addition to the library of almost every resident of the two townships, particularly those whose own family histories are given in some detail in it—and there are many. They include most of the long-time resident families of both townships.

The booklet will be a 64-page "Volume I" of exclusively Whitefield and Henry townships; other "volumes" will deal with those of other townships as they appear in years to come. Shortly after the publication of this week's News-Republican, the following type will be made up in page form and added to what is already standing, ready to be printed. It is hoped that the booklet itself will be placed on sale by the end of next week.

Copies may be obtained from this newspaper office, or in person or by mail from the author at his residence at 807 Western avenue, Henry. The price, for such a valuable historical document, will be very reasonable. A rather limited number of copies is to be printed, so those who wish to buy one or more, are urged to do so as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

THE MERIDIAN-WEIS-APFEL CEMETERY — PART II

The Irish Families

The bulk of the names still on stones in this cemetery, 22 in number, are definitely Irish; but of the 22, only eight are still represented locally: Hartley, Dorsey, Finnegan, Jennett, Ford, Green, Harrington, O'Brien, and Landers. Several of these we have asked about possible relationships; Harrington's and O'Brien's disclaim any relationships, and Finnegan's are very doubtful about any. It could easily be—all eight are reasonably common Irish names.

The oldest persons in it are: Patrick Finnegan (1789-1880), one of the last few burials in it, and his wife, Mary (Jennett) (1797-1880). Their monument is the largest in the cemetery.

There are three remaining war veterans' graves (at least two were moved out after 1874), all of which are definitely Irish names: Thomas Green, who served in the Mexican War, and James Barrow and Thomas Murray in the Civil War; however, only the last-named has a marker. The other two appear to have been permanently lost to location. Green died Dec. 30, 1874; Murray in 1879, exact date not known; we have never found Barrow's date of death anywhere.

The Gros Family

There was a relationship of sorts between the three Barrow's widow, nee Mary Higgins, remarried, a Patrick Green (on Aug. 16, 1873) as his third wife; and this Patrick Green was a brother of Thomas Green, and also of Thomas Murray's mother. We have been told they were in some manner related to most of the other Greens who have lived hereabouts for close to a century, but in what manner, none we have asked, seem to know exactly.

We do know that Thomas Green had four children; two of them, both daughters, are given in his obituary: Sarah L. (1843-1914 who married Douglas S. Chance; and Ellen E. ("Nellie"), (1851-1889) who married Caleb Forbes, a Civil War veteran, and an uncle of Rank Forbes of Henry. The other two of Thomas Green's children are not named in his obituary, nor is his wife, but from other sources, we know her name was Mary.

We have never found anything in print relating to any possible descendants of either Murray or Barrow.

The late Matilda (Lins) Morse told us one time that the present, disgraceful condition this cemetery has for many years been in, was the result originally of a visitation by a group of vandals, bent on wholesale destruction. They certainly accomplished it in a most systematic and efficient manner; but nothing was ever done to attempt to restore it, nor likely ever will be. It all happened too long ago for anybody to care much, nowadays. How quickly people can forget!

CHAPTER IX.

THE WEBSTER CEMETERY

This little burial-ground can boast of at least three unique distinctions among those we have been describing: undoubtedly, it was the earliest in actual use of them all; it was the shortest-lived, and the first to be wholly abandoned; and it literally "swallowed whole," almost, what was once a promising "community with a future."

What happened to that "future," shouldn't happen to any community; but to Webster, it did happen, suddenly and fast. Today, 120 years later, all that remains of the whole original community is a rather vague remembrance of only the name, and a little burying ground, actually closer to Henry than to Webster's original site, along the Illinois river bank near the outlet from Mud Lake. Local nimrods occasionally spot its lone stone remaining upright, pause to read its badly weathered inscription, and move on.

Early Webster Settlers

The whole life of Webster was compressed into less than a single decade; in that span of time, it saw its first settler, a man named Lorenzo Stacy, who built a small cabin near what a few years later came to be known as "Webster Landing." In the winter of 1830-31, only to abandon it about a year later and build another where Henry was beginning to be; get a sudden impulse for growth from a group of "promoters," suffer a crushing tragedy; and die a violent death, all in only about eight years' time.

Webster as a potential center of population got its start with the arrival of four men, Robert Latta, Alvin Dascomb, Wallon Plato, and a Major McAllister, who in 1836, laid off a number of "lots" in the southeast quarter of Section 3 of Henry township. They sold readily, and shortly a dozen or more cabins began to take shape. There was a blacksmith shop opened, also a small "general store," owned by a man named Josiah Hayes—more about him later.

The foursome of proprietors bought machinery for a steam-operated saw mill and grist mill, which eventually arrived and was hauled up the steep bank from the steamboat landing. Things were really "looking up" for Webster.

Trouble Arrives, Too

But things didn't continue to "look up" very long. Certain other things, of a far less welcome nature than the machinery, arrived in its wake—among them a rampant epidemic of "milk fever," reputedly brought in by a group of newly-arrived immigrants from Tazewell county, which quickly "took charge of the situation" and soon caused the whole project to "die a born-again."

Plato and Latta were among its first victims, followed in rapid succession by one after another of the stricken village's inhabitants, until the few who were still on their feet, concluded to use them in a very hurried departure for other locations.

The maximum population of Webster is said to have been around

50. Just how many were left behind in this little burial-ground in the frantic exodus from the doomed village, has never been known. It was so sudden, so complete, and so permanent, that few ever returned to mark the graves they left sorrowfully behind them; perhaps some of them became "lost" in a few years. And most of what few headstones were installed there, in the 120 intervening years, have become broken off and lost.

A Few of the Burials

Ellsworth in his much-quoted volume, published in 1880, identifies a few of those known to have been buried there. He mentions both Plato and Latta, and also a Mrs. Dennis, possibly the first actual burial in it, whose stone is reported to be the only one still identifiable. (She has a granddaughter living in Texas, we are told.) Her husband, James Dennis, remarried (Mary C. Pool, a sister of Guy and Simon Pool, among Henry's earliest settlers), and died in 1863 at the age of 61.

Another which Ellsworth names is a Sallee Snider, whom census records identify as the fourth of 12 children of one of Henry's foremost pioneer citizens, Col. Henry Snider (1791-1855), born probably about 1821 or 1822. Her youngest brother, Edwin, was the grandfather of Ray and Alden Snyder (name spelling changed), both former Henry residents, and still occasional visitors to this city.

Still another was the first wife of storekeeper Josiah Hayes, usually known from his much abbreviated stature, as "Little" Hayes. In about 1840, he remarried, but in a four-year period, 1845-1849, lost successively, four very young children of his second marriage, and in the latter year, also his second wife, Louisa. (These, however, are all buried in the Hoyt cemetery, rather than the Webster graveyard.) Soon afterward, he left Marshall county to try to make himself a new life in Kansas, where, we are told, he eventually became a man of considerable prominence.

Daniel Webster Visited Site

It is said that Daniel Webster himself, for whom the infant village was named, responded to a personal invitation to inspect his namesake community. The visit was a flat failure, however; he is reported to have remarked that it was a "shame" to spoil such good farm land "by driving stakes in it." (The promoters' lot-corners.)

After the last of the cabins disappeared, the land was farmed for a great many years. But in the early spring of 1957, it was bought for an industrial site by the B. F. Goodrich Chemical company; and since then, a magnificent new plant occupies, partly, the site where Webster once stood. So even this many years afterward, little Webster has finally come into its own—even though all that remains of its former, original place in Marshall county history, is this pathetic little graveyard on the Illinois river bank.

MAGNOLIA

Former Magnolia Doctor Dies

Friends here have learned of the death of Dr. W. A. Simmons at the home of his son, Dr. Joseph Simmons, Kirkwood. Dr. Simmons was 70 years old and was on the staff of the East Moline State hospital for 15 years, retiring in 1956. He is survived by his son, a daughter, and seven grandchildren. His wife and son, Dr. Dan Simmons, reside here. The funeral will be held at 10 o'clock at the home of Dr. Simmons on Magnolia for a number of years.

Open House Honors The George Haugers

Sunday, Aug. 17, the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Hauger was observed with open house for them, at their home, from 2 to 5 o'clock. Artistic golden floral arrangements and potted plants were placed about the house. The bride of 50 years ago wore a corsage of golden pom-pom mums and the groom a boutonniere of a golden mum when they received the congratulations of their many friends. The serving table, where white cake squares centered with a rose bud and a gold leaf, mints, nuts, punch and coffee were served, was centered with a tiered anniversary cake decorated with golden leaves and roses, and the numeral 50. Gold candles were placed on either side. The serving was done by the daughter and daughters-in-law of the honorees. They also took care of the many lovely gifts. Eleven of Mr. and Mrs. Hauger's thirteen children and their families were present at this memorable occasion. Murray of Detroit, Mich., and Dan of Mt. Pleasant, Pa., were unable to be present.

George Ditman Honored On 91st Birthday

A group of neighbors and relatives helped George Ditman celebrate his 91st birthday, Aug. 12, with a potluck supper. The bountiful meal was topped off with a birthday cake, beautifully decorated, and ice cream. Those entering the fellowship together with George were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kidd and family, Mrs. Dora Kidd, Mrs. Muggie Kidd and Harry, Mrs. Robert Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Greathouse, Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Bleckerman, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wallace, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Satterfield and family, Mr. and Mrs. Warner Broadus, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stansell, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kidd of Granville, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bangs, Lostant.

Harry Martin, St. Petersburg, Florida, is visiting his brother, William, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Williams have moved from Tennessee into a trailer tenant home and he is working for Harry Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Pritts, Bloomington, were Sunday guests of her parents, the Joe Strodes.

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Cameron and John, Toulon, were among the folks from a distance at the open house for Mr. and Mrs. George Hauger, Sunday.

Rev. Douglas Davies, Columbia, Mich., accompanied Rev. Warren Christian home for the weekend from Garrett Institute, Chicago, where both are attending school. Rev. Davies, an accomplished musician, gave a concert of sacred music during church time. Those who did not hear him missed a rare treat.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Westlund and Charles and Mrs. Selma Westlund spent Sunday with Miss Florence Westlund, Chicago.

Monday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Logan Shaw were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Shaw and daughter, Mary Jane Cunningham and Gregory Fisher, Streator.

Kathy Bleckerman visited part of the week at the Marco Perikas in Spring Valley.

Mrs. Lloyd Billups, Karen and Tommy, spent from Tuesday through Friday with relatives in Michigan. Henry Thonkile Jr., returned home with them for a visit. Mrs. Myron Fenwick of Carlock

Mr. and Mrs. James Witko and Family of Lostant

Leon Steffens had a toe badly cut in the lawn mower. Several stitches were needed to close the wound.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Stephens attended the wedding Saturday evening of Jerry Kemp and Miss Janet Drummet at the Methodist church in Wenona, and the reception which followed in the bride's home near Rutland.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Paxson are to leave by Santa Fe train on Thursday to visit her sister, Mrs. Glen Calhoun, and her husband, at Palm Dale, Calif. They expect to see much of the State also.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cusac of Pontiac visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cusac Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. David Newton and son spent Sunday with her mother, an Weston.

Mrs. Winnifred Sivel entered St. Margaret hospital at Spring Valley Sunday for observation.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Smith and Miss Bessie Krantz of Lostant went to Chicago Sunday and came home Monday and visited their sister, Mrs. Paul Chantrell and husband.

Mrs. Petra Nelson accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Nelson and sons to Newark Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Avery of St. Paul, Minn., visited his cousin, George Hauger and wife Tuesday.

William Busbin was injured on Monday when he was unloading lumber and a board slipped and hit him on the head.

The response to donations to the Salvation Army was very gratifying when the truck from Peoria came into town Thursday.

Mrs. Darrell Chambers has returned home from St. Margaret's hospital, Spring Valley where she received treatment for blood poisoning.

Saturday afternoon callers of Mrs. Petra Nelson were Mrs. Ellen Johnson of Hennepin, Mrs. Maggie Hjort of Granville, and Mrs. Lena Peterson of McNabb.

Stamp Society to Meet at LaSalle

The 37th annual convention of the Precancel Stamp Society will be held at the Kaskaskia Hotel, LaSalle, Ill., August 21 through 24, 1958. The Illinois Precancel Stamp Club with Willard O. Moore, Dixon, Ill., president, are to be the hosts.

LaSalle is well known as the center of precancel activities in the Middle West. The 1953 P.S.S. convention can be remembered by the record breaking number of members who attended. In place of the expensive indoor attractions of most large convention cities, LaSalle offers a wealth of free outdoor features. Several scenic areas are close at hand. For example, Starved Rock State Park—made famous by Fibber McGee and Molly—is filled with natural attractions, pioneer history and Indian lore.

A special convention Post Office will use a convention postmark and a full stock of commemorative stamps from the Philatelic Agency will be available. The public is invited to attend, and admission is free.

For further information contact Charles R. Deffenbaugh, Ancona, Ill., general chairman.

Five Counties Want Sheriff and Treasurer To Succeed Selves

Public officials of five counties in this section of Illinois, including Putnam county, met recently at the Ranch House at Bureau for the purpose of advocating support of an amendment to the state constitution to permit sheriffs and treasurers of counties to succeed themselves in office.

A leader in promoting the new enabling legislation is Elmer Hoffman of Whentown, Ill., present state treasurer, and formerly a sheriff of DuPage county.

DET, diethyltoluamide, is the most outstanding all-purpose insect-repellent ever developed. Since it is sold under various names, look for the name of this chemical on the package or container.

Expand Capacity of Princeton Municipal Electric Plant

Like all private utility companies, the Princeton municipal electric plant is under constant pressure to expand, in order to keep up with the demand for electric current.

At the present time, the Princeton plant is installing a new diesel engine-generator which will increase the capacity of the plant from 5,500 to 8,250 kilowatts.

M-P Public Aid Caseload Up, Cost Down for June

The total caseload of the Illinois Public Aid commission's five public aid programs in Marshall and Putnam counties during June was 346 compared with 316 the previous month.

Payments under the five programs were down from \$15,705.69 in May to \$15,286.24 in June.

The largest increase in the caseloads for the various programs in the two counties came in Marshall county general assistance where the number of recipients increased from 26 in May to 56 in June.

Marshall county also had an increase of one in disability assistance and a decrease of eight in aid to dependent children and one in old age assistance.

In Putnam county the only changes were an increase of nine in general assistance and a decrease of one in old age assistance.

The cost of the aid to dependent children program in Marshall county a little more than \$200, and the cost for general assistance increased only about \$50 although the caseload increased by 30 persons.

In Putnam county addition of nine to the general assistance caseload resulted in an increased caseload of about \$80.00. Other programs in the two counties were down, which resulted in a lower total.

For the entire state public assistance during June was provided 342,278 persons at a cost of \$15,334,259, Peter W. Cahill, executive secretary of the Illinois Public Aid Commission, reported to Governor William G. Stratton.

Cahill said the state's share in this over-all cost of the five public aid programs amounted to about \$7.9 million, or 51.6 per cent.

In the previous month, \$15,274,382 was expended for 341,940 recipients. In June 1957, 285,391 persons received aid at a cost of \$13,737,421.

General Assistance dropped to 113,734 persons during June. This is the third successive monthly decrease in the recipient load of this program.

Old Age Assistance dropped to a new low of 82,319 persons in June. The previous month carried 82,579 persons and in June 1957 the load contained 86,951 persons. June expenditures were \$5,439,602 for an average of \$66.42. In May the cost was \$5,825,786 and the average was \$67.34.

The trend in Aid to Dependent children continued upward but at a slowing rate as transfers from the general assistance program decreased.

Blind Assistance rose in June to 3,249 persons at a cost of \$251,344. The average was \$77.53.

Disability Assistance rose to 17,457 persons, a new high brought about by transfer of eligible cases from general assistance. The cost came to \$1,414,042 for an average of \$81.33.

JUNE FIGURES FOR MARSHALL AND PUTNAM COUNTIES

Marshall County		Putnam County	
Aid to dependent children	Persons	Amount	
51		\$1,570.00	
6		287.00	
56		\$543.32	
127		7,817.80	
Putnam County		Persons	
Aid to dependent children	5	139.00	
Blind assistance	2	217.00	
Disability assistance	6	274.00	
General assistance	24	388.12	
Old age assistance	60	3,454.00	

Toluca Faculty Is Completed

David Pease, of Thomson, Ill., has been hired as science teacher in the Toluca high school to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Miss Alta Hoerbert of Woodstock. This completes the faculty for the coming school year.

Mr. Pease, who is a native of Wisconsin, holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from the University of Illinois. He is a veteran and married. Mr. Pease taught the past two years in Thomson.

Peoria Makes Strong Bid for State Office of I.A.A.

Progressive Peoria citizens are buoyed up by the hope that the Illinois Agricultural association will select the city of Peoria as its new state headquarters city.

The I. A. A. has employed a specialized firm, the Fantus Factory Locating Service, to assist in selecting a downstate location.

Recently a representative of the firm visited Peoria to look over the facilities offered by Peoria.

The representative was Ronald A. Reifler. He said that if the I. A. A. moves its headquarters to one of the 10 cities still in the running, it will need a whole city block in an urban area or 20 to 25 acres in an outlying area.

He said his firm's recommendation will probably go to the I. A. A. shortly after Labor Day, and he said that the I. A. A. board of directors might make its decision in October.

The estimated cost of an office building to be constructed in a downstate city is \$5,000,000 and more than 1,000 people will be employed.

Reifler said that the I. A. A. is interested in having as many of its present employees as possible move to whatever location is selected. He pointed this out in stating that good housing, adequate schools and churches and cultural and recreational facilities will be important factors in the final decision.

For this reason, he said that members of the I. A. A. board, executives, and employees will probably visit some of the cities still in the running before the final decision is made.

Active in promoting Peoria as the state headquarters has been I. Frank Green of the Commercial National bank and Harry D. Feltenstein of Clico, both representing the Peoria Chamber of Commerce committee.

Peoria citizens still believe that they have a good opportunity to land the I. A. A., and consider that the central location of Peoria is one of its advantages.

The Peoria Journal-Star had this to say Monday concerning the location of the I. A. A. in Peoria: "The I. A. A. could find no friendlier atmosphere for its work than Peoria would present. We feel the location of its offices here would be advantageous both to the community and to the I. A. A. and would be most happy to welcome the group to Peoria."

There is no less enthusiasm at Galesburg, where Reifler also recently visited.

Galesburg went so far as to offer the I. A. A. a choice of 10 sites as a gift from the community, but the I. A. A. has stated that while it appreciates the spirit of the offer made by Galesburg and other cities, it intends to decide location on merit alone.

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Minonk Paper United Party All Conservatives

The Minonk News-Republican has this to say concerning the situation: "The control of the party in the North and West has been drifting back to the hands of the Socialists and their allies. The party is being run by a few heads, radicals, and many Republicans, intimidated and along."

Dr. John H. W. Dentist

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