

Old Cemeteries of Marshall County

Published under the auspices of the Marshall County Historical Society

SUGAR GROVE CEMETERY

This cemetery is unique among the six Whitefield township cemeteries in several respects. It is the only one which is neither a church parish nor a family-and-neighborhood cemetery, but instead, was a fully non-sectarian, all-community burial ground. It is probably the best-known of all of them, and contains more graves than any other; it is by far the best kept and maintained, and its history is by quite a bit the easiest to trace.

Its location is near the spot where once stood a sizeable grove of sugar maple trees, from which the cemetery, the community, and the road past it, all received their name. The cemetery is on the north side of the Sugar Grove road where it bisects Section 11 of the township at its westerly edge, exactly four miles west of State Route 20 (Sugar Grove road, being one mile north of Western avenue road); at one time, a north-south road crossed Sugar Grove road along that same section-line, two miles in length from Western avenue road north to the Whitefield Corners road, though long since vacated.

The land surrounding the cemetery, timber and pasture land, is the property of Keith Blackburn, who is descended from three families—Blackburn, Clawson, and Gregory—who figured prominently in the early history of both the community and its little burial-ground. The cemetery itself stands on a slight eminence on the southern edge of the timber-pasture plot, sloping off to east, north, and west, affording ideal drainage—a "perfect" spot for a cemetery. The soil, however, is the yellow clay typical of that area.

First Opened in 1855-56; Gift of Francis Gregory

Another respect in which Sugar Grove is unique among the Whitefield cemeteries is the fact that it was used as an official site for cemetery purposes; a quite extensive story about its origin and "authorship" appearing in an old issue of the (then) Henry Republican (Issue of Sept. 22, 1887) states that one acre of ground was donated by the late Francis Gregory (about whom, together with his family, much more will be said in the story) for cemetery purposes, during the winter of 1855-56. The actual date of the grant was not given in the story, but the first burial in it was that of an infant nephew of the donor, Mark Gregory, son of George and Mallinda (one of 13 total children), who died Nov. 14, 1856, at 15½ months of age.

There are, of course, several stones in the cemetery indicating earlier deaths, going back as far as 1851 (Elizabeth Wilson, 1872-1851), all of which must have been moved in from elsewhere, more than likely from burials plots in the community; but this is one cemetery where we do have authentic published information to quote on its actual opening.

One other of these pre-1856 burials was that of the man for whom the township itself was named, and its first supervisor, John B. White, one of its earliest settlers. He and his bride—Dec. 30, 1841, formerly Eleanor B. Calef, both natives of Washington, Vt., came to Whitefield on a one-way honeymoon trip to take up their residence on a claim which Mr. White had entered some five years earlier on a trip to Marshall county.

Flaw in Title Loses Farm

However, it developed that there was a flaw in the title, and after a bitter, long-drawn-out legal battle, not decided until after the untimely death of Mr. White himself, on Oct. 30, 1852, the family finally lost the land. White, anticipating that such a thing might happen, had meanwhile purchased another farm adjoining his, and had commenced improving it, but in 1852, moved with his family to Henry to engage in the local lumber business. Upon his death, he was buried originally in the old Henry cemetery, his grave being moved to Sugar Grove at a later date.

The John B. Whites had three children: Ellen Marie, who later became the wife of Ransom E. Gregory, J. Burrill, and Asa Orville, who left Marshall county for Milford, Ill., in 1860, to settle. The elder son, a veteran of the Civil War (serving in Company B of the 136th Illinois Infantry), also met an untimely death, from typhoid fever, on Feb. 11, 1868, shortly after graduating from (probably) Knox college at Galesburg. (His obituary does not specifically mention Knox college, and the former Lombard college, located also at Galesburg, was in operation at that time. We guess Knox, because it was at that time a Congregational-sponsored school, and the White family was known to have been of that religious preference and affiliation in Henry. Lombard was a Universalist or Unitarian denominational school.)

Left a widow at comparatively young age, only 37, Mrs. White several years later, on a visit to her native Vermont community, renewed acquaintance with a former girlhood friend, and returned to Henry as Mrs. Luther A. Jones. She passed away at the age of nearly 89, on Feb. 16, 1904, and was buried beside her first husband in Sugar Grove cemetery. A former resident of the community, who at that time helped regularly with its maintenance, Harry J. Blackburn, now of Madison, Wis., says he helped open her grave, with a more than common amount of frost to pluck through in the process.

The tall, white marble needle-type monument which adorns the White family lot, marking these three burials; is one of the most legible in the cemetery of that material, in spite of its age.

The Gregory Family

There are perhaps more Gregorys—those of the name and descendants of daughters and granddaughters of other names as well—buried in this cemetery than of any other lineage, except perhaps the Clawson family, which includes as many Gregory descendants as Gregory's include Clawsons—there were two Gregory-Clawson marriages in the community population, though both before coming to Sugar Grove. Unfortunately, we do not have anywhere near the full tabulation of either, though enough to make a partly respectable genealogical table.

As to just when the Gregory family first began to infiltrate the Sugar Grove area, we have never learned—but infiltrate it they did, from Ashtabula county, Ohio, with the following, all members of the same family, living at one time or another in Whitefield and/or Henry townships: Harrison J. (1813-1882), Francis (1816-1874, buried here), Ellen (Mrs. John) Clawson (1820-1896, buried here), George (1822-1895, but left the area for Nevinville, Ia., and died and was buried there), John (1825-1892, buried here), and Sarah (Mrs. John W.) Jones (1832-1879, buried in Winthrop, Mo.). (There may have been others we have missed for not knowing about them—if so, we're sorry! But for those listed, we have read and noted obituaries in local newspaper files.)

No "Name" Descendants Left Hereabouts
Just as with the Bonham family noted several weeks ago, all the present-day descendants of this large, prominent, and influential family in the Whitefield-Henry area, now carry other names, children of daughters and granddaughters.

For one reason, quite a few of the "name" Gregorys caught the "go-west-young-man fever," and did so, principally to West Central Iowa, though some eventually reach the West Coast. One branch removed to Princeton, though "came home" to be buried in Henry City cemetery. And of the sons who remained here, few had sons who reached maturity, to carry on the name locally, and those few left for elsewhere.

Second generation Gregorys buried in Sugar Grove include: Jane C. (Gregory) (1836-1887) and Ezra P. Calef (1824-1903), one of ten children of Harrison J. (another, Mark (1835-1904), was originally buried here, but his grave later moved to Henry City cemetery); Mary (daughter of Francis, Sr., 1854-1887) and Samuel L. Clift (1847-1926), and several infant children of Francis Sr.: an unnamed infant daughter (Oct. 29, 1858-Nov. 10, 1859). Francis Jr. (1863-1865), and Berryman (1866-1869). George Gregory (Sr.) also buried two children in this cemetery: baby Mark (1855-1856), the first burial in it, and Frank, a younger son (1858-1859). One infant daughter of Ellen, (Gregory) and John Clawson, Laura (1862-1865), completes the roster of Gregorys (who have stones, at least) buried here.

The Camery Family

Another of the prominent pioneer families of Whitefield (which then included also present Saratoga, which was not set off as a separate township until some years after the county was formally organized in 1852) was that of Christian P. and Nancy (Messick) Cam-

ery, the former the only War of 1812 veteran buried here, and one of the very few in the whole county.

It is not known exactly when the Camerys came to Marshall county, but they farmed land near the northeast corner of what is now Saratoga, and chose Sugar Grove cemetery as their family burial space. Both parents, and four sons and one daughter, together with several grandchildren, are buried on three lots here: the parents, Christian P. Camery (May 8, 1790-March 11, 1874) and Nancy (Messick) Camery (Jan. 30, 1801-April 5, 1883) have on their lot the tallest monument in the cemetery, an imposing needle-type Barre granite monument over 10 feet in height.

They had 10 children: John F. (1823-1896), (his wife: Clementine (Tribbett) (1823-1910)—and a daughter, Amanda Jane (1854-1934), are buried here)—most of their living descendants are in the Kewanee community now; James (1825-1911), who went to Toledo, Iowa; Christian P. Jr. (1829-1910) who went to Traer, Iowa; Isaac Walter (1831-1920) (his wife: Ellen M. (Kellogg) (1840-1919), parents of Miss Nellie Camery and Mrs. John Morse of Henry, and grandparents of Miss Mae Baugh, also of Henry (they have their eldest son, Justin, buried in Sugar Grove; (1865-1873); David (1833 or 1834-1907, but where buried is not known to your reporter at the moment); J. Morgan (1835-1861, buried in Sugar Grove); Elijah S. (1838-1910) (his wife: Isabel (Brown) (1844-1926)—formerly Henry residents, but no local living descendants; Samuel (1839-1880) and his wife Elizabeth (Sollings) (1847-1917), both buried in Sugar Grove; Mary E. (1841, date of death not in our records), wife of Lafayette Applen (1834-1903), both buried in Sugar residents; also David and Mary A. Duffield, who have many descendants; and Amanda Jane (1845-1940), wife of Fred Raymond, Jr. (1842-1933), both buried in Henry City. It is interesting to note that from the birth of the father (1790) to the death of the youngest child (who lived to the remarkable age of 95) in 1940, a span of 150 years intervened. Few families can match this.

The Burt Family

Another family which deserves special mention, although now almost completely extinct in the area, is the once large and prominent Burt family, newspaper publishers in Henry and farmers for three generations, to wit:

This family's only descendant still living in Henry (of her generation), Mrs. Burdick (Burt) Quinn, kindly loaned us her entire tabulation of the family, which goes back eight generations beyond her to a Henry Burt, who came from England to Roxbury, Mass., over 300 years ago.

The local branch, three of five children of Asa Burt, Jr. and Sarah (Stebbins), came here in the 1840's from Hartford, Conn. (though originally from Suffield, Conn.), two sons to farm the their newly-opened Whitefield land, and the daughter, to teach school. They were: Asa III, who never married, (1802-1880), buried in this cemetery; George Burt, Sr. (1806-1888) and his wife Jerusha (Spencer) (1800-1880), also both buried here; and Sarah S. (1812-1890) who became the wife of Robert B. Miller (1808-1897), both also buried here.

All of the Burt's later generations were descended from George Burt, Sr., via four of his five children, all born at Hartford, Conn., and all youngsters when the family came to Whitefield.

John Spencer Burt, the eldest (1834-1912) founded the former Henry Times, a strongly Democratic newspaper, and his son Robert Frece Burt (1869-1943) continued in his father's footsteps for some years after the latter's passing—his widow, a Henry girl, formerly Elizabeth Smith, still resides at an advanced age in Peoria.

George Burt, Jr., as a young man, became associated with Henry's pioneer newspaper as a member of the firm of Spencer, Burdick, and Burt, publishers, and eventually became its sole owner. Published for many years as the Henry Republican, with his son, George A. Burt succeeding him, it is now known as the Henry News-Republican, with 106 years of continuous journalistic service to the community behind it. George Burt, Jr. died July 16, 1932, having reached the remarkable age of 96. His wife, Cornelia Ann (Burt) Blake, a distant cousin, died in 1895 at 63; George A. Burt, second of their three children, died in 1948 at 77. There are no living descendants of this branch of the family.

Only Living Area Descendants

The third child, Elizabeth Reeve Burt, died July 1, 1863 at the age of 26, and is buried in Sugar Grove. Twin son and daughter, Clarence E. and Cornelia E. (Mrs. George W. Looze; they left this area for Lake City, Iowa many years ago), completed the family. All the local living descendants of the Burt family come from Clarence E. Burt (1840-1925) and his wife Maria L. (Waldron) (1841-1918); Lucy E. (Mrs. Benson E.) Crum, and Mary Annetta ("Nettie") (Mrs. Edward J.) Metcalf both passed away in recent years. Dr. Clarence E. Burt, Jr., still lives in Michigan; Burtha M. (Mrs. Ed) Quinlin lives in Henry; James S. and Abbie Belle (buried in Sugar Grove) complete the family.

Other Prominent Families

To give a complete tabulation of all the families who used Sugar Grove as their burying-ground would require much more space than is at our disposal, or else require two or three installments, and would sound like a "Who's Who" volume of Whitefield history and biography. Our only reason for giving as much detail on the four we have, is the fact that they account for a high percentage of Sugar Grove burials, were among its earliest pioneer settlers, and also, that we had the material available for so doing—thanks to several living members of those families who kindly furnished us with it!

Arriving about the same time as the Burts were the Horace Spencer family, several of whom lie buried in Sugar Grove. Indeed, the most recent burial in it was Miss Lucy Spencer of Geneseo, in 1952, and there is a possibility that one more, very aged, member of this family may be interred there.

Fountains, Vails, Truss

Other prominent families who used Sugar Grove cemetery included the William Fountain, John VanSickle Vall, and Arthur Truo families. William Fountain (1808-1891) and his wife Jane (McGinnis) (1813-1891) have two of their seven children buried with them here—William Henry, who died at Louisville, Ky., a member of the 86th Illinois Infantry, on Dec. 16, 1862, at 21, and Milton (1884-1899). A sister, Hannah (1817-1858), wife of George W. Ewalt, who remarried and left Whitefield, and several of their children are also buried in Sugar Grove.

One of the Sugar Grove residents who early took a great interest in the welfare of the cemetery, and helped materially with its physical features was John VanSickle Vall, grandfather of L. Gertrude (Vall) Ilgus, who passed away about two years ago, and who gave us a great deal of valuable information about this cemetery and many of the people buried in it, through a most pleasant correspondence lasting several years, although we never did meet personally in all that time.

Several entries in Mr. Vall's very interesting diary, which he kept up daily for almost 30 years, have to do with Sugar Grove on Oct. 3, 1860, he helped survey part of it (probably dividing in into lots); on Oct. 22, 1860, he helped collect money for fencing it; and Dec. 8, 1860, spent his whole day helping to erect the fence.

Other entries made that same fall and winter seem to indicate that at first, it was a rather loosely-managed proposition, but on April 2, 1861, he gave Harrison Gregory (Sr.) some money to get a "book to keep the graveyard record in."

Later on (in the diary, he records on July 20, 1866, collecting the sum of \$2.00 (three donations of 50 cents each, one of 15 cents, and his own 35 cents) to make up the whole \$2.00) to pay for digging a grave in Sugar Grove cemetery for a John Gordon, apparently an indigent resident of the neighborhood—his grave was never marked.

Has a Trust Fund for Maintenance

More lots were laid off in the cemetery on Sept. 25, 1869, and Vall helped with both the actual surveying and part of the expense of the remainder. Other entries in the next few years mention trimming brush, mowing, fence repairing, and other chores, in which other neighborhood residents are sometimes mentioned. On Sept. 10, 1885, John Gregory, John A. Spencer (Vall's son-in-law), and Clarence E. Burt (Mrs.

Wenona Will Sell Two Surplus School Buildings

At a regular meeting of the Wenona Unit District Board of Education, Monday evening, Oct. 28, Attorney John Berry, of Streator, was present to explain the necessary procedure in disposing of school property. The Phoenix rural school and the old Wenona grade school are the properties in question.

Separate propositions on the various proposals must be signed by a required number of voters before the board can hold an election. Two proposals will be submitted in regard to the old grade school, that it be sold to the city for the sum of \$1, or that it be sold to the highest bidder.

Mr. Berry had the petitions ready and they will be circulated by Chamber of Commerce members who also attended the meeting.

Legion Auxiliary Solicits Jewelry For Hospital Patients

An appeal is being made by the Legion Auxiliary for used costume jewelry for women veterans in the State hospitals. Stamped embroidery pieces, new pieces of material for aprons, pretty buttons, and sewing thread are also needed for these women.

Anyone having such items to donate should get in touch with the members of the past presidents' club or leave them with Trelia Brown or Cynthia Barker before the last of this month so they can be packed November 29.

News-Republican Pays Another Insurance Claim

The Henry News-Republican on Monday paid another Ruraleite insurance claim for a personal injury sustained in an accident. The payment went to Eva J. Shearer, Rural Route, Henry, who stubbed and fractured a toe in an accident.

Payment was made by the Old Republic Life Insurance company of Chicago.

8,090 Students at U. of I. Now Have Scholarships

More than 3,500 scholarships are available to students at the University of Illinois; C. W. Safford, dean of admissions, said recently. This includes 843 cash scholarships and 2,697 tuition scholarships.

Another 4,550 students have grants through the Veterans administration, making a total of 8,090 scholarships and grants this semester.

Dean Sanford said another 2,000 scholarships are needed to encourage the youth in the top quarter of 12th grade classes to continue their education.

Former Wenona Resident Dies in New Jersey

Word has been received by Harold Crone of Wenona of the death of Edgar Parkinson of East Orange, N. J., a former Wenona resident. Mr. Crone is the tenant on the Parkinson farm owned by Mr. Parkinson and his sisters, Miss Grace Parkinson, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Lucy Hamilton, Calif.

His wife, one son, and his sisters (Quinn's father), were elected trustees. (There is still a board of trustees functioning, which accounts for the satisfactory condition the cemetery is kept in.) Frank Clift, Harry Wilson, and Keith Blackburn are the ones who usually take care of the work, or hire others with income from the cemetery's trust fund, to do it.)

Vall had a son, Joseph Randall Vall (died Aug. 9, 1875, at 35), buried here, who served as adjutant of the 47th Illinois Infantry division in the Civil War.

Also to be mentioned among prominent area families formerly using this cemetery is the Arthur True family, still fairly well represented in the Henry community and some others nearby. Arthur True (1827-1829) and his wife, Sophronia Abigail (Darling) (1823-1903) both lie buried here, together with several of their 12 children, who were: Mary A. (Mrs. Abram T.) Shurts (parents of Maude (Mrs. Frederick C.) Willott); Harriet A. (Mrs. Laban H.) Cox, whose son Charles was buried earlier this month in Henry—Laban was a Civil War soldier, and died May 14, 1884, from surgical shock involved in the amputation of a war-wounded leg; Huldah J. (Mrs. Elliott) Bunch; Albert (Mrs. Charles A.) Salisbury and Harry True of Peoria; Ellen (Mrs. James) Patterson; William M. (and his wife, Susan E. (Smith), parents of Mrs. Izantha Daniels and Fred True, both of Henry; John Wesley True (1856-1914), buried in Sugar Grove; Caroline A. (Mrs. George) Shurts, parents of the late LeRoy and Harry B. Shurts; Ruth Alma (1860-1862), buried in Sugar Grove; Alice E., wife of William O. Applegate, and later of John Fraley, and mother of C. Louis Applegate; Henry's efficient and cogent waterworks superintendent—Charles B. (1865-1928) and finally, Sarah Emma (1867-1868), both buried in Sugar Grove.

A brother of Arthur True, William True, buried a 22-year-old bride, and an infant son in Sugar Grove in 1861, and 16 years later, another infant daughter by his second wife.

More Sugar Grove Families
Still other well-known area families using Sugar Grove include the William Nichols family, the husband and father 1829-1903, the mother, Ruth Ann (Young), 1835-1914; an three of their children: Thomas N. (1855-1932), Lottie (Mrs. Charles A.) Terrell (1860-1909), and William S. (died 1916, age not given, but about 54). Miss Gertrude of Henry is this family's lone second-generation survivor.

Theophilus Wilson father of Guy Wilson of Henry, and his parents, are buried in Sugar Grove. Samuel L. and Mary (Gregory) Clift, parents of Frank Clift; Elwood Smith, grandfather of a number of Henry dents living locally, are others. And of course, many we have not had space to mention, bring the total up to well over 200 burials.

Just how many, probably no one again will ever know. Somehow, during the bank closing crisis of the early 1930's, the register book of lot-holders and burials, became lost; we have been told, and has never put in an appearance since then. (The trustees would welcome its return, if anyone has it.)

(Next Week: Merdon-Wells-Appel.)

Henry News-Republican
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1957

Legion Auxiliary Plans Card Party

The November meeting of the Legion Auxiliary was held Wednesday evening, Nov. 6, in the new Legion home, with Cynthia Barker presiding. Reports were given by the various chairmen. In rehabilitation the unit was credited with \$241.66 for the dinner, clothing, books, and treats taken to Peoria State hospital last month. The credit for the work so far this year is \$313.56. The past presidents' club is asking anyone for good used costume jewelry for the service women confined to various hospitals in the state. Also such items as stamped embroidery pieces, embroidered thread, pretty buttons, sewing thread and new apron material, are needed by the patients for their own use.

The name of Jackie Ahman was given to the unit to honor this year's Soldier's and Sailors' home at Normal. He will be sent money this year in lieu of presents as in other years on birthdays and holidays.

The Ways and Means committee announced they would hold a public card party on Thursday evening, Nov. 21, at the Legion home. Canasta, "500", and pinocle, will be played and a lunch will be served. All members are asked to furnish a table.

It was decided to hold the annual Veterans' Day potluck dinner on Monday, Nov. 11. The president appointed Messdames Bertha McLaughlin, Marian, Pogemiller, Ila Thompson, Anna Ransom, and Sophie Thelbier, as the committee.

The craft shop "sale at Read's store was set for Saturday, Nov. 9. The Third Division convention will be held in Henry Sunday, Nov. 17, with Mrs. Marie Lockert, of Moline presiding. The men will meet in the Legion home and the women in the Farm Bureau building starting at 2 p.m.

Messdames Marian Pogemiller, and Minnie Dycart reported on the fall convention held in Washington, Ill.

It was decided to have a 50-cent gift exchange at the December meeting and ask the district director to attend; also to cooperate with the Legion in sending money to the boys in service. A delicious lunch was served by the November committee and a few played "500" afterward.

U. of I. To Have Conference on Spelling

Why can't many college freshmen spell, read, or write a simple sentence? English teachers, principals, and counselors from Illinois high schools will help University of Illinois faculty leaders seek the answer in a campus conference on Nov. 19 and 20.

They will consult with about 400 of their former high school pupils, now freshmen in the University of Illinois, to learn what additional high school preparation would have improved their ability to tackle required college rhetoric (English composition).

The U. of I. conference on School - University Relations, second in a pioneering series, is aimed at finding ways to help youngsters bridge the gap between high school and university.

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Letter To The Editor

To the Editor of the Henry News-Republican:
Thank you so much for printing my letter in September, seeking information about the family of Ananias Snetten. The Boose Funeral home director, John F. Boose wrote me and also the Bert Winmers, collateral descendants of the family, and I now have all the information I need on this branch of the family. I certainly appreciate your help, and thank you again.

Sincerely,
Virginia (Snetten) Sponser,
Huneston, Iowa.

Quinn's father), were elected trustees. (There is still a board of trustees functioning, which accounts for the satisfactory condition the cemetery is kept in.) Frank Clift, Harry Wilson, and Keith Blackburn are the ones who usually take care of the work, or hire others with income from the cemetery's trust fund, to do it.)

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WIZARDRY

RISUM TENENTIS, AMICI

By the Wizard

THE IDEAL NEWSPAPER
The title of this article is one of those things which is not ideal, and this is especially true when it comes to describing the ideal newspaper because none such exists. That is, according to my idea of the ideal.

There are even very few what might be called newspapers. How come? Because as I see the newspaper it is one dedicated to something more than a buck for the publisher. Unfortunately, most are motivated by the dollar sign first, this made them unable by all kinds of avowed, public-spirited, purposes; none of which will stand the test of green stuff.

To those comments most editors and publishers report "But we must do such-and-such to stay in business." This is an excuse to ease their conscience. The editor must be dedicated to one underlying principle to guide his entire policy in running the paper. Most consider themselves as Big Business nowadays and are looking for as large a profit as government and their efficiency will allow. This is their underlying principle. They print anything commensurate with this principle and very little that might endanger it.

A few editors and publishers see their newspaper not just as another profitable enterprise, but as the mass media of communication and education (radio, television, schools, churches, etc.) which will shape the destiny of this country. They see their newspaper as a powerful medium for interpreting and presenting public opinion. They respect the power of the printed word, a responsibility which they hold in sacred trust.

They realize that a democratic people must be informed people and that their newspaper is the best of conveying important information to a populace which must read, digest, and act upon that information to obtain their way of life. This country depends upon a free and responsible press. If self-congratulatory editors and publishers sense a meaning in their work for creating that of private gain. Most of them will risk the pocketbook to see that certain information comes to the public eye. They lose advertisers and subscribers the way. A few have been killed for what they haven't been afraid to say.

It would be utterly impossible for us to discuss qualities of an ideal or even a good newspaper in an episode of WIZARDRY. If I ran a series on this subject no one would read it. However, the newspaper situation in the United States today is beautifully summed up in a book called Lords of the Press, written a few years ago by a veteran newspaperman, George Selde.

Mr. Selde's book is well worth reading. There is much in it worth passing along, one hardly knows where to start. The one thing that struck me the hardest was the chapter entitled "Ten Tests For A Free Press." In the framework of these "ten tests" I began to see ideal newspaper taking form—and simultaneously realized how far-distant our press is from the kind of freedom suggested in them.

These "ten tests" are interesting enough to be here. As you read them you might consider your own newspaper and check them against this list. In this you can put your finger on their underlying principles.
Wrote Mr. Selde:

1. Give equal space to political parties.
2. Give some space to minority parties, at least relative to their strength. (These two tests will be majority of our press, which styles itself independent the spot.)

3. Publish the Federal Trade Commission reports (These reports are not enough, but they do expose some of our greatest manufacturers of food, clothing, tobacco, milk, etc., as fraudulent.)

4. Tell the truth about cigarettes and automobiles to the two largest advertisers.

5. Give the consumer a square deal. (Publish same reports on consumers' good which only the right and left weeklies publish nowadays.)

6. Reject organized pressure. (Inform the American Legion, the various churches, business and labor organizations, and all other sacred cows, bulls, and hants of journalism, they will no longer influence news; if all publishers in any one town agree on the losses can follow.)

7. Publish the labor news. Give labor a square. (Everyone admits that the press has fallen down in the labor field than elsewhere.)

8. Throw Mr. Hearst out. (The Associated Press accused Hearst of theft of the news. It won its case, it did not throw him out. No press organization can ethical claims so long as it has Hearst around.)

9. Stop defending child labor because of the few lars you save on newboys.

10. Print both sides of a controversy. (No sane claim to be free if it refuses to publish both sides.)
In addition Mr. Selde adds these in a footnote as good measure:

11. Defend public welfare instead of public policy only.

12. Stop publishing letters which agree with policy only.