

Creston, Illinois

Dement Township, located east of Rochelle, separated from Flagg Township in 1856. In the 2010 census the population of Dement Township was 623.

The first permanent settlement in Dement Township was Brodie Grove which was located 2 miles north of Creston. The first settler, John Brodie from Ohio, was ordered to leave and sold his claim to David Worden in 1841.

John Brodie was a relative of the Driscoll family. The Driscoll family frequently visited his home and his neighbors felt he was part of the gang of horse thieves, counterfeiters and murderers.

Brodie Grove had a post office in 1852 and their first school three years later. Religious services were held in their homes. This was stop for the Frick and Walker stage coaches from Chicago to Galena.

The railroad coming through in 1854 caused the demise of the settlement of Brodie Grove and the Town of Dement sprung up by the railroad in 1855. It was named after John Dement of Dixon because he owned land nearby. John lived in Dixon and never lived in Dement Township. In 1869 the name was changed to Creston. Creston is the highest point on the railroad right of way between Chicago and the Mississippi River.

When the Lincoln Highway was first built through Dement Township, it weaved through downtown Creston. Later, the highway was rerouted straight east to west on the north edge of Creston.

The Union Pacific with two tracks passes through Creston. For me it was refreshing waiting for the train to pass. It reminded me of the past whereas we now zoom over a bypass.

Creston is a wonderful small town located close to Rochelle and within driving distance of Northern Illinois University. It has the old town flavor with the Opera House being restored, a library located downtown, and several other historic buildings. There are two murals and you can feel the pride the people of Creston have for their community.

Woodland Cemetery is located at Brodie's Grove . There are many veterans from the war of 1812, Civil War, Spanish American War, World I, World War II, Korean War, and the Vietnam War. This is an exceptionally well kept cemetery showing their community pride.

Lyle Headon started business in 1970 with a mom and pop grocery. Today Headon's serves a large area with their catering business. They have a large meat and deli section with a wide selection of fine cheeses. There is always free coffee and you are invited to sit at the liar's bench where the locals hang out. While you are waiting, you can go next door to the Rouge Wine Cellar for a complimentary wine taste while you wait for your meat order.

Creston has a wonderful history and Lyle and others have preserved their history published in three books that are available at Headon's.

This all started for me as I was researching the Swingley family who had moved to Creston from Mt. Morris. I saw the three books on sale and asked the price. Lyle, without hesitation, donated the books to the Ogle Co. Historical Society and copied information on the Swingley's from the library and forwarded it to me in the mail. Although running a business with over 25 employees, he gave part of his time sharing the history of Creston. All I can say, Lyle, is thanks.

