

citizens desire the abatement of this nuisance;

Therefore, we, the undersigned, beg that your body will assemble and either call a public meeting of the citizens, to take some measures for the suppression of this traffic, or that you will yourselves, having knowledge of the fact named, take due course for the execution of the law, and in maintaining temperance and the honor of our community.

In compliance with the above, the board called a meeting of the citizens of the village, to devise some means to suppress the nuisance. The meeting was held in the Methodist church, but no record of the action taken by the assembly can be found.

The tax rate for 1862 was placed at ten cents on the one hundred dollars. The trustees for this year were the same as the year previous.

March 2, 1863, seventy-nine votes were recorded at the election. The trustees elected were all new men, as follows: James Clark, W. H. Atchison, H. I. Little, F. B. Brayton, A. Q. Allen. They organized with James Clark as president; A. Q. Allen, clerk; and William H. Atchison, treasurer. This board continued in office two years. July 25, 1864, Peter Funk was appointed poundmaster and William Bull, street commissioner.

In 1865, votes polled, twenty-three. Trustees elected: James B. McCoy (president), A. Newcomer (clerk), Henry I. Little (treasurer), J. McClelland Miller, and F. B. Brayton. Appointments: J. McClelland Miller, street commissioner at \$2.50 per day; Peter Knodle, constable; William Nichols, poundmaster.

In 1866, twenty-nine votes were polled. Trustees elected: F. B. Brayton (president), Andrew Newcomer (clerk), Henry I. Little (treasurer), Martin T. Rohrer, and J. McClelland Miller. Appointments: J. McClelland Miller, street commissioner; Peter Knodle, constable; William Fish, poundmaster. (The pound at this time, and a number of years previous, appeared to have been used a great deal for the imprisonment of hogs, many of which were allowed to run upon the streets. The trustees often had occasion to legislate upon this nuisance.)

In 1867, twenty-four votes were

polled. The trustees elected were the same as the previous year. Appointments: Stephen H. Cheney, road commissioner; William Myers, assistant. A tax of fifty cents on the one hundred dollars was assessed for the year's expenses.

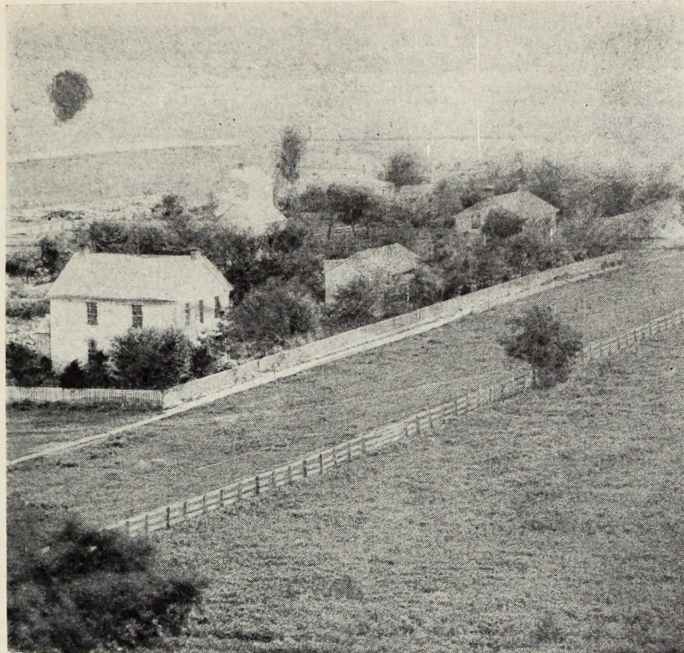
In 1868, forty-seven votes were polled. Trustees elected: Elias Williams, Samuel Knodle, Morris Gaffin, John Sprecher, Henry Middlekauff. There is no record that the members of this board ever took the oath of office or held a single meeting during their year of office. From appearances, the board of the year previous met in their stead.

In 1869, the board of 1867 was again elected in the spring election, in March. They chose F. B. Brayton president, M. T. Rohrer clerk, and W. I. Little treasurer.

In 1870, eighty-two votes were polled. Trustees elected: F. B. Brayton (president), M. T. Rohrer (clerk), W. I. Little (treasurer), A. Newcomer, and Samuel Lookabaugh. Commencing at this election, the president was elected by direct vote instead of being selected by the trustees from among their own number, as was done heretofore. April 27, this board passed a stringent ordinance, "relating to the sale and traffic in wine, rum, gin, brandy, whiskey, beer, cider, or other intoxicating liquors." For the ensuing year a rate of one dollar on each one hundred dollars' worth of property was levied.

In 1871, eighty-eight votes were polled. The board elected was as follows: Samuel Knodle, president; Ezra Toms (clerk), Upton Miller (treasurer), M. Stroh, S. H. Cheney. A tax of two dollars on each one hundred dollars was levied for the ensuing year. January 27, a considerable amount of new sidewalk was ordered built and the contract let to John T. Stewart at thirty-five cents per rod.

In 1872, seventy-six votes were polled. Board elected: Henry Sharer, president; Jonathan Knodle (clerk), Henry Clevidence (treasurer), Henry H. Newcomer, John Startzman. More sidewalks were laid this year to keep up with the rapid growth of the village. A tax of \$500 was levied for corporation purposes for the ensuing year.



THIS VIEW OF MOUNT MORRIS was taken about 1870, looking southwest from the top of "Old Sandstone." Notice in the foreground that the campus extended a long distance to the west and was surrounded by a board fence. In fact every property had a fence around it in those days, because every one kept cows and horses which were permitted to graze on the streets and vacant lots. The brick house at the left used to be the Methodist parsonage and is still standing.

In 1873, fifty-seven votes were polled. Board elected: Martin T. Rohrer, president; Samuel Lookabaugh (clerk), Henry H. Clevidence (treasurer), Oliver H. Swingley, John French. S. H. Cheney was appointed street commissioner, and a tax of \$700 was levied.

In 1874, seventy votes were polled. Board elected: Samuel Lookabaugh, president; Samuel Mumma (clerk), Henry Sharer, J. A. Knodle, H. H. Clevidence. Stephen H. Cheney was re-appointed street commissioner, and a tax of \$800 levied. On Feb. 25, 1875, a petition was presented to this board, asking that an election be held to vote for or against village organization under the general law, enacted by the General Assembly of Illinois. The petition was granted and the election was set for March 27, 1875, with H. I. Little, Elijah Scott, and John Sharer, judges, and Peter Householder and A. W. Little, clerks of the election. The election resulted in favor of the proposed village organization, thirty-five votes being cast for the measure to one against.

In 1875, an election was called and

held April 20, to elect six trustees, a village clerk and police magistrate, as required by the new organization. The result was as follows: Andrew Newcomer, I. H. Allen, H. I. Little, H. H. Clevidence, Peter Householder, J. M. Piper, trustees; village clerk and police magistrate, M. T. Rohrer. The vote polled was 110. O. H. Swingley was appointed treasurer, and Stephen H. Cheney, street commissioner. September 4, a tax levy of \$500 was made. September 17, a considerable amount of new sidewalk was ordered built at a cost of thirty-four cents per rod.

In 1876, the village officers elected were as follows: John H. Swingley, H. H. Clevidence, Henry I. Little, Joseph M. Piper, J. A. Knodle, Charles Miles, trustees; Martin T. Rohrer, village clerk. Mr. Little was selected as president. A. W. Little received the appointment of street commissioner, and J. B. McCoy that of village constable. The annual appropriation bill was passed July 29, providing a tax of \$625. Later an additional appropriation of \$100 was made, to build a calaboose.

The election held April 17, 1877, was as follows: For trustees, Henry Clevidence, John H. Swingley, Samuel Mumma, Benj. G. Stephens, Jacob A. Knodle, Thomas Williams; village clerk, John Sharer. B. G. Stephens was chosen president. O. H. Swingley was appointed treasurer; Peter Funk, street commissioner; and J. B. McCoy, village constable. The annual appropriation was \$500.

In 1878, the election was held April 16, and resulted as follows: For trustees, H. L. Smith, T. C. Williams, H. H. Newcomer, L. J. Brogunier, H. H. Clevidence, W. S. Blair; village clerk, Arthur M. Newcomer. H. H. Clevidence was chosen president. Appointments: O. H. Swingley, village treasurer; Rigdon McCoy, street commissioner; Addison W. Neff, village constable. During this year the first licensed saloon was opened by W. H. Wallace, who paid \$400 per annum for the privilege. Licenses were also granted to Pool Brothers and Solomon Davis to run billiard halls. An appropriation of \$400 was made for all purposes for the ensuing year. B. F. Tracy was appointed street commissioner Sept. 9, to fill vacancy, for the remainder of the term.

In 1879, the election resulted as follows: Trustees, John W. Hitt, John H. Nye, Charles C. Miles, George W. Shank, Lewis Sprecher, J. F. Whitman; village clerk, Edward Mooney. John W. Hitt was elected president. Appointments for the year: O. H. Swingley, village treasurer; James B. McCoy, village constable; H. C. Clark, street commissioner. A levy of \$500 was made to meet the year's expenses.

In 1880, the election resulted as follows: Trustees, Charles Newcomer, Peyton Skinner, George H. Riner, John French, Samuel Middour, H. H. Thomas; clerk, E. L. Mooney. License was made an issue at this election, and apparently a very strong sentiment had arisen against the saloons, as the result shows that 174 votes were cast against and not one for license. The board organized with Charles Newcomer as president. At this time the term of the trustees was changed from one to two years, three of the six to be elected every year. It being necessary to divide the board into

two classes, one to serve one year and the other, two, lots were cast, which resulted as follows: Charles Newcomer, Peyton Skinner, and John French were to serve one year, and George H. Riner, Samuel Middour, and H. H. Thomas, two years. Appointments for the year: Village constable, A. W. Neff; treasurer, O. H. Swingley; village clerk, to fill vacancy caused by resignation of clerk-elect, Holly C. Clark; street commissioner, B. F. Tracy. Later H. L. Smith was chosen to succeed Mr. Neff as village constable. The sum of \$1,075 was appropriated for the year's expenses.

In 1881, the three new trustees elected were Andrew Newcomer, George Sprecher, and John French. Holly Clark was elected village clerk and Andrew Newcomer was chosen president. Appointments: O. H. Swingley, treasurer; B. F. Tracy, street commissioner; Robert Crosby, marshal. Rigdon McCoy was later chosen to succeed Mr. Crosby as marshal. The annual appropriation was \$800.

In 1882, the trustees elected were as follows: H. H. Clevidence, Luther J. Brogunier, Archibald S. McCoy; village clerk, W. H. Miller. H. H. Clevidence was chosen president. Appointments: David Rine, treasurer; B. F. Stouffer, marshal; Robert Crosby, street commissioner. A saloon and a billiard-hall were licensed by this board, the former paying a license of \$500. The annual appropriation bill amounted to \$1,000. Rigdon McCoy acted as marshal during the latter part of the fiscal year.

In 1883, the officers elected were as follows: Trustees, George Sprecher, David Newcomer, A. E. Canode; clerk, Samuel Knodle. H. H. Clevidence was chosen president. Appointments: David Rine, treasurer; Robert Crosby, street commissioner. No appropriation appears to have been made.

In 1884, the trustees elected were Isaac Rice, Benjamin F. Mumma, John Harmon; to fill vacancy, John Stewart. Samuel Knodle was elected village clerk, and Isaac Rice was chosen president. Appointments: A. M. Newcomer, treasurer; John E. Miller, street commissioner and marshal; George S. Cheney, assistant marshal. William C. Withers was appointed street commis-



FOR MANY YEARS the two-story building on the left was owned by the Village of Mount Morris and used as a meeting place for the Village Board of Trustees. The small building at the right was used as the village jail or calaboose as it was called, but it was a very rare occurrence when any unruly citizen had to be confined there. However, tramps were occasionally allowed to sleep there. These buildings were torn down a few years ago and the new township hall used until the village erected its own building in 1921.

sioner, to fill vacancy, during the latter part of the year. Appropriation, \$1,884. The records of this year show considerable activity on the part of the board in suppressing the illicit sale of liquor.

In 1885, trustees elected: David Newcomer, John T. Stewart, Jacob Good; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Isaac Rice was again selected president. Appointments: A. M. Newcomer, treasurer; William C. Withers, street commissioner and marshal. Appropriation, \$1,000.

In 1886, trustees elected: William H. Jackson, Benj. F. Tracy, Peter Householder; clerk, Samuel Knodle. David Newcomer was selected president. Appointments: A. M. Newcomer, treasurer; William C. Withers, street commissioner; George S. Cheney, marshal and poundmaster. The office of marshal

was later transferred to Jacob Withers. In May of this year, the village hall and lot were purchased of John Sprecher for \$300. The calaboose was moved upon the newly-purchased lot, and the remainder used as a pound. In August, the board commenced the work of revising the ordinances, which were afterward published in pamphlet form. Jacob Good, an honored member of the board, died during this term, and resolutions of respect were passed and spread upon the minutes. The annual appropriation amounted to \$1,500.

In 1887, trustees elected: Full term, David Newcomer, John T. Stewart, Samuel Rowe; to fill vacancy, Oliver H. Swingley; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Dr. Newcomer was again chosen president. Appointments: William C. Withers,

street commissioner; A. M. Newcomer, treasurer. Annual appropriation \$1,000.

In 1888, the election resulted as follows: For president, Charles Newcomer; trustees, Daniel N. Wingert, Joseph M. Piper, Charles Sharer; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments: Benjamin F. Tracy, street commissioner and marshal; A. M. Newcomer, treasurer. Kerosene lamps for lighting the streets were purchased in August and placed on the principal corners of the town. The appropriation for the fiscal year amounted to \$1,000.

In 1889, the election resulted as follows: For president, Charles Newcomer; trustees, George Sprecher, John T. Stewart, George B. McCosh; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments: A. M. Newcomer, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, marshal and street commissioner. In July of this year, three large cisterns, to provide water in case of fire, were built, each cistern having a capacity of 150 barrels. They have long since been filled up. A fire company of seven persons was formed at this time. The annual appropriation was \$1,000.

In 1890, the election resulted as follows: For president, Charles Newcomer; trustees, A. E. Canode, Clinton E. Price, Henry H. Newcomer; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments: William H. Miller, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, marshal and street commissioner. Annual appropriation, \$1,000.

In 1891, result of election: For president, Charles Newcomer; trustees, George B. McCosh, Henry L. Smith, Jacob Craley; clerk, Samuel Knodle. The question whether a village tax of one mill should be levied for a public library was an issue at this election. Seventy-one votes were cast in favor of, and one against, the proposition. William Miller and Samuel Rowe were reappointed treasurer and marshal and street commissioner respectively. The annual appropriation was \$1,500.

In 1892, result of election: For president, Charles Newcomer; trustees, Samuel P. Mumma, A. M. Newcomer, Daniel B. Keedy; clerk, Samuel Knodle. William Miller was again appointed treasurer and Samuel Rowe, street commissioner and marshal. The annual appropriation was \$1,650.

In 1893, result of election: For president, W. H. Jackson; trustees, Philip T. Sprecher, Charles H. Sharer, C. H. Mishler; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Officers of the year previous were reappointed. The street leading to the depot, known as "Midway," was opened and macadamized. Annual appropriation, \$1,850.

In 1894, result of election: For president, W. W. Hanes; trustees, Clinton E. Price, Henry L. Smith, Benj. Rine; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Officers of the previous year were reappointed. During the summer the first five blocks (5,728 square feet) of tar-concrete walk were constructed by J. F. Wisner, of Rockford. The annual appropriation bill amounted to \$2,500. At the meeting of the board on Feb. 4, 1895, the following petition, signed by N. E. Buser, Charles Newcomer, Joseph Amick, L. A. Plate, R. E. Arnold, Simon E. Yundt, and 168 others, was submitted for their consideration:

TO THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF MOUNT MORRIS:

Gentlemen: The undersigned, citizens and tax-payers of Mount Morris, feeling that the time has arrived when the village should have a system of water-works, herewith submit this petition, and respectfully ask your honorable body to take the legal preliminary measures necessary to submit the question of water-works to the voters of the village at the coming spring election—said water-works not to exceed \$15,000, and to be so constructed as to furnish ample protection from fire to the lumber yard of Clark & Wingert, the elevators, and Chain-Stay Fence factory, on the north side; P. T. Sprecher, A. W. Brayton, and John Rice, on the east side; the creamery, Old Folks' Home, and public school building, on the south side; Mr. Lutz and John French, on the west side; and all property included within the above limits.

The ordinance prohibiting the pasturing of cattle on the streets was ordered to be strictly enforced, and the practice was effectually done away with.

In 1895, result of election: For president, W. W. Hanes; trustees, full terms, John H. Rice, Philip T. Sprecher, W. A. Newcomer; to fill vacancy, Ira W. Wingert; clerk, Samuel Knodle. The question whether a waterworks system should be put in was voted upon, 96 votes being cast in favor of, and 69 in opposition to the measure. The officers of the year previous were reappointed.

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THIS OLD LANDMARK, which stood for years on the corner now occupied by the Village Hall, was torn down in April, 1906. This building was used for many years as a livery stable and was built in the fifties by Benj. and David Wagner. It passed through many ownerships over a period of fifty years, among them being H. L. Smith, Chas. Niman and Dr. A. W. Price.

May 6, it was ordered that bonds to the amount of \$8,000 be issued by the village to apply on the construction of water-works. May 14, a special meeting of the board was held to consider the kind of water-works that would be suitable. A number of authorities were consulted, and a committee appointed with power to let the contract for the system, visited Amboy, and reported in favor of a steel tower. June 27, the annual appropriation ordinance was passed, providing \$400 for interest on water-works bonds, \$1,500 for increase of water system, and \$1,400 for other purposes, making a total of \$3,300, the largest sum ever appropriated for village purposes, previous to that time. July 24, the contract for drilling the artesian well was let to J. P. Miller & Co., of Chicago, and Aug. 8, the contract for the tower, powerhouse, and equipment complete, was let to the United States Wind, Engine and

Pump Co., of Batavia, for \$6,163. April 6, 1896, the following ordinance was passed:

Be it ordained by the president and Board of Trustees of the village of Mount Morris, that all sidewalk on the principal streets hereafter to be constructed shall be laid of tar-concrete, stone, brick, or artificial stone, excepting the sidewalk in front of stores and other business houses on Wesley avenue and other business streets, where it may be impracticable or undesirable to lay walks with other material than planks or boards.

In 1896, result of election: For president, W. W. Hanes; trustees, Ira W. Wingert, Edward Slater, Benj. Rine; clerk, Samuel Knodle. William H. Miller was again appointed village treasurer and Samuel Rowe, marshal and street commissioner. In July, complete settlement was made for the water-works system, the amount of the bill being \$6,435.94. The annual appropriation bill amounted to \$3,300, \$400 being

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set aside for interest on bonds, \$1,500 for increase of water-works system, and the balance for sidewalks, streets, and contingencies.

In 1897, result of election: For president, A. W. Brayton; trustees, Philip T. Sprecher, H. E. Newcomer, W. A. Newcomer; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments: William H. Miller, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, marshal and street commissioner; C. H. Whitman, fire marshal. During the spring of this year, 2,169 lineal feet of tar-concrete walk was laid, aggregating about seven blocks, in addition to the wide walk leading to the depot. The annual appropriation provided 3,300, of which \$1,200 was designed for increasing the water-works system.

In 1898, result of election: For president, A. W. Brayton; trustees, A. E. Clevidence, Benj. Rine, Ira W. Wingert; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments: William H. Miller, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, marshal; C. H. Whitman, fire marshal; George Lampert, street commissioner. In April, 7,561½ lineal feet of tar-concrete walk was laid. Appropriation, \$3,300, of which amount \$900 was for increase of water system and \$700 for walks.

In 1899, the election resulted as follows: For president, W. W. Hanes; trustees, H. E. Newcomer, W. A. Newcomer, Philip T. Sprecher; clerk, Samuel Knodle. Appointments, William H. Miller, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, marshal; George Lampert, street commissioner. Appropriation, \$3,300. No provision was made for the extension of the water-mains, an extra large amount being set aside for sidewalks. In July of this year, the street commissioner purchased an improved road-grader, with which much good work was done on un-macadamized streets. Nearly 3,000 lineal feet of tar-concrete walk was laid during the year.

In 1900, the election resulted as follows: For president, W. W. Hanes; trustees, Ira W. Wingert, Benj. Rine, William Peacock; clerk, B. E. Avey. Appointments, Roy Householder, treasurer; Samuel Rowe, manager of pumping-station; William Keedy, marshal and street commissioner. The annual appropriation bill, passed June 7, again

provided \$3,300 for current expenses during the fiscal year. In August, William Keedy resigned, and William Withers was appointed street commissioner, while the duties of marshal were again assumed by Samuel Rowe.

From 1901 to 1938, the village officers elected were as follows:

1901—President, John E. McCoy; Trustees, Wm. Peacock, Ben Rine, P. T. Sprecher, I. W. Wingert, Wm. Marshall, Price Stouffer; Clerk, B. E. Avey; Treasurer, J. G. Miller.

1902—President, John E. McCoy; Trustees, Wm. Marshall, P. T. Sprecher, Price Stouffer, Frank Baker, Emanuel Slifer, C. H. Whitman; Clerk, B. E. Avey; Treasurer, J. G. Miller.

1903—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees, Frank Baker, Emanuel Slifer, C. H. Whitman, A. E. Canode, O. C. Gloss, J. O. Thomas; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, J. G. Miller.

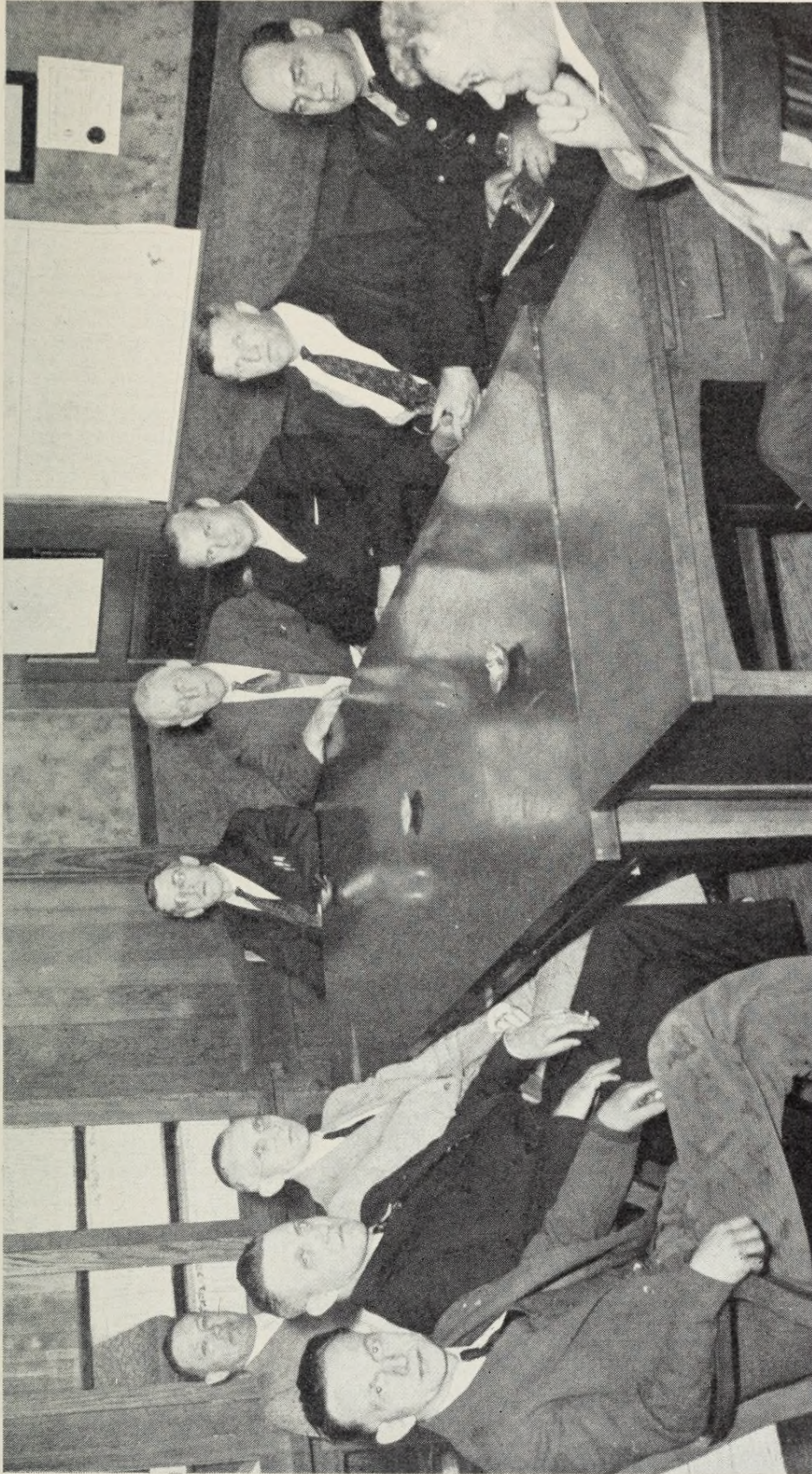
1904—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees,



CHARLES E. BOSTON, son of Benj. F. and Tilitha Dalton Boston, was born May 6, 1878, at Girard, Ill. He came to Mount Morris in 1914 to enter the employ of the Buser Concrete Construction Co. as foreman, where he worked until 1928, when he opened the Boston Electric & Sporting Goods Store. In 1931, he entered the employ of the village, first as manager of the community gymnasium, then superintendent of water department, now head of water and sewer department. He also served as village president and trustee for several terms, and clerk of Moont Morris Township for six years. In 1902, he married Virgie L. Campbell, and they have two sons, Carroll E. and Stanley D. They own their home at 112 Emily Street.

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VILLAGE OFFICERS, 1938: Left to right, Syril Avey, Daniel Miller (treasurer), Frank Hilger, Chas. Edson, Otto Hudson (president of board), H. E. Longman, Harold Patterson, Nelson Bruner, Harold R. Palmer (chief of police) and Fred Frederickson (clerk).

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A. E. Canode, O. C. Gloss, J. O. Thomas, C. H. Mishler, A. W. Price, G. E. Weaver; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1905—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees, A. E. Canode, J. O. Thomas, A. W. Brayton, J. P. Holsinger, R. C. McCready, John Rice; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1906—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees, A. W. Brayton, A. E. Canode, J. P. Holsinger, R. C. McCready, John Rice, J. O. Thomas; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1907—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees, A. W. Brayton, J. P. Holsinger, J. H. Rice, J. O. Thomas, Ira Hendrickson, Dr. D. F.



OTTO A. HUDSON was elected President of the Village Board of Trustees in 1934 and reelected for a four-year term in 1937. He is the son of Willey and Mary (Stewart) Hudson and was born August 14, 1886, near Fair Oaks, Ind. He learned the trade of electrotyper and came to Mount Morris to enter the employ of Kable Brothers Company from Hammond, Ind., in 1924. In 1914, he married Esther D. Lord, and they have four children as follows: Richard S., Robert W., Ralph F. and Louise Elsie. Mr. Hudson was cornetist for nine years in the Kable Brothers Company (129th Infantry) Band. His son, Richard, won the state high school championship as pianist while in high school, and his youngest son, Ralph, is becoming a talented violinist. Mr. Hudson is an active member of the local Masonic Lodge, having served as Master for two years and secretary for nine years.

Stevens; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1908—President, W. D. Davis; Trustees, Ira Hendrickson, John Rice, J. O. Thomas, Frank Coffman, A. H. Dunne, Chas. Wishard; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1909—President, Dr. J. H. Ritson; Trustees, Frank Coffman, A. H. Dunne, Ira Hendrickson, Chas. Wishard, LeRoy Iler, Ed. Marvin; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, J. E. Clapper.

1910—President, Dr. J. H. Ritson; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, Ira Hendrickson, LeRoy Iler, Ed. Marvin, Dr. J. F. Stevens, Price Stouffer; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1911—President, Joseph L. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, Dr. D. F. Stevens, Price Stouffer, A. T. Olson, John Tice, John Wine; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1912—President, Joseph L. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, A. T. Olson, Price Stouffer, John Wine, L. C. Sprecher; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1913—President, John H. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, A. T. Olson, L. C. Sprecher, Price Stouffer, John Wine, W. H. McCready; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1914—President, John H. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, A. T. Olson, Price Stouffer, John Wine, Fred Frederickson, Wm. Marshall; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1915—President, John H. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, Fred Frederickson, Wm. Marshall, A. T. Olson, W. P. Stouffer, John Wine; Clerk, A. M. Newcomer; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1916—President, John H. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, Wm. Marshall, A. T. Olson, F. Jacobs, Harvey J. Kable, B. S. Price; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1917—President, John H. Rice; Trustees, A. H. Dunne, F. Jacobs, H. J. Kable, A. T. Olson, B. S. Price, Louis Paul; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1918—President, John H. Miller (Later succeeded by A. H. Rittenhouse); Trustees, F. Jacobs, Louis Paul, Clinton Miller, Wm. Peacock, John Rudy, W. E. West; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1919—President, Robert H. Newcomer; Trustees, F. Jacobs, Louis Paul, Wm. Peacock, W. E. West, Roy Brayton, Fred Watts; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

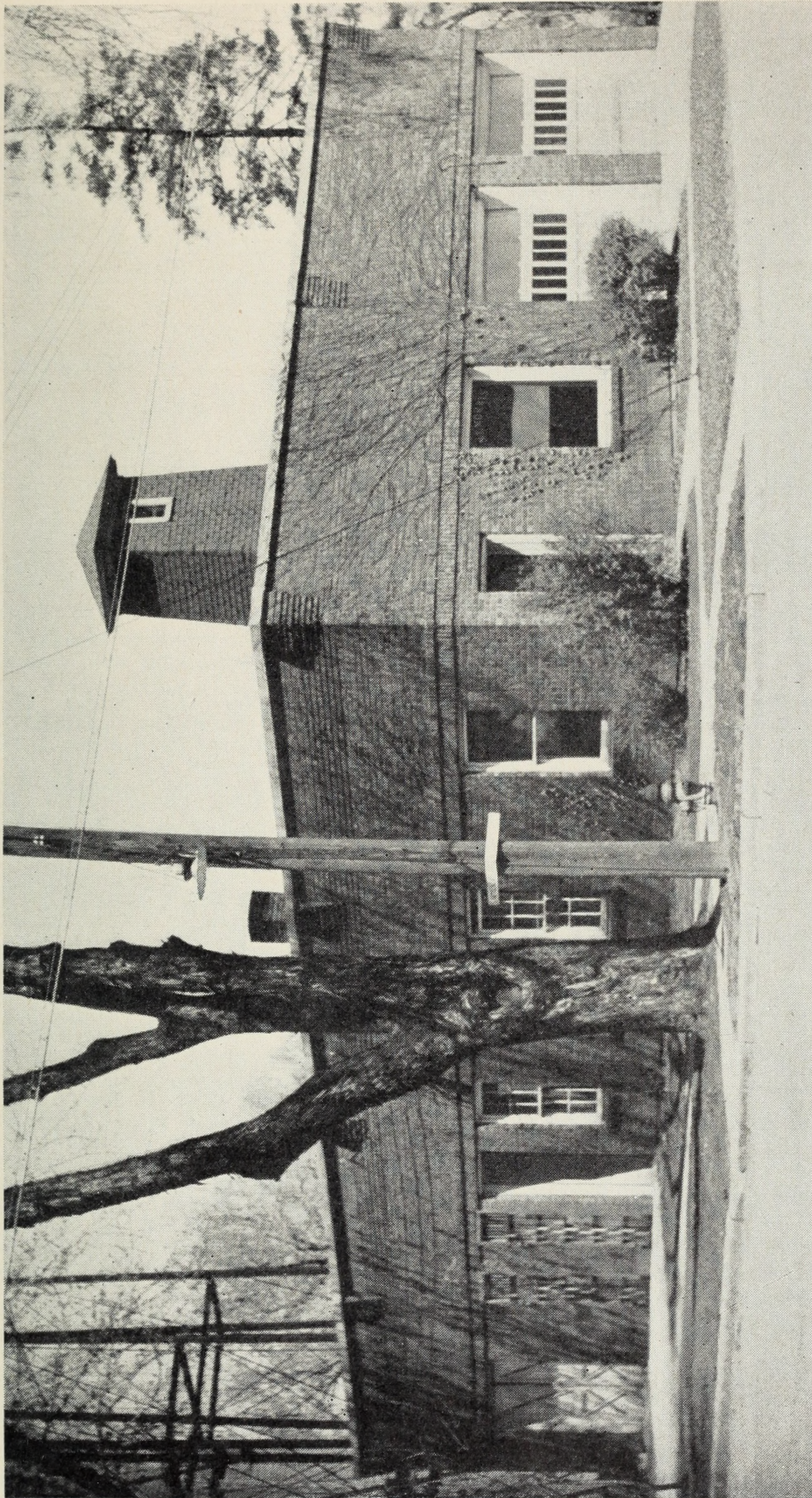
1920—President, Dr. J. H. Ritson; Trustees, Roy Brayton, F. Jacobs, Wm. Peacock, Fred Watts, W. E. West, Ray Holsinger; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, P. T. Sprecher.

1921—President, John W. Wine; Trustees, Ray Holsinger, Wm. Peacock, W. E. West, Geo. Farwell, D. C. Tracy, Chas. Wishard; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Louis C. Sprecher.

1922—President, John W. Wine; Trus-

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THE VILLAGE HALL of Mount Morris was built in 1921 on the northeast corner of McKendrie Ave. and Center St. This building houses the fire equipment, the village jail, the pumping station and the meeting place for the Village Board of Trustees. This corner was occupied for many years by a livery stable.

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BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of Mount Morris looking northwest from the water tower about the year 1900. Note the Geo. Sprecher homestead in the center background where the Kable plant now stands.

tees, Geo. Farwell, Wm. Peacock, D. C. Tracy, W. E. West, Chas. Wishard, Frank Light; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Louis C. Sprecher.

1923—President, Dr. J. H. Ritson; Trustees, F. Jacobs, Frank Light, Wm. Peacock, Fred Watts, W. E. West, A. S. Barre; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Louis C. Sprecher.

1924—President, Dr. J. H. Ritson; Trustees, A. S. Barre, F. Jacobs, Fred Watts, W. E. West, S. E. Avey, Sr., Alvin Hurdle; Clerk, Roy Cratty; Treasurer, Chas. H. Sharer.

1925—President, D. C. Tracy; Trustees, S. E. Avey, Sr., Avin Hurdle, W. E. West, B. A. Baker, H. E. Coffman, W. B. Stouffer; Clerk, Roy Cratty; Treasurer, Mrs. Lanah Newcomer.

1926—President, D. C. Tracy; Trustees, B. A. Baker, H. E. Coffman, W. B. Stouffer, Frank Hilger, Dan L. Miller, Dan Samsel; Clerk, C. H. Mishler; Treasurer, Mrs. Lanah Newcomer.

1927—President, Chas. H. Sharer; Trustees, H. E. Coffman, Frank Hilger, Dan L. Miller, Dan Samsel, W. B. Stouffer, Joe Young; Clerk, C. H. Mishler; Treasurer, Fred Frederickson.

1928—President, Chas. H. Sharer; Trustees, H. E. Coffman, Frank Hilger, W. B. Stouffer, Dan Samsel, Joe Young, Chas. Boston; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, H. M. Knodle.

1929—President, Chas. H. Sharer; Trustees, Chas. Boston, Frank Hilger, Dan Samsel, B. A. Baker, Otto Hudson, Geo. H. Warwick; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1930—President, Chas. H. Sharer; Trus-

tees, B. A. Baker, Chas. Boston, Frank Hilger, Otto Hudson, Dan Samsel, Geo. H. Warwick; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1931—President, Chas. E. Boston; Trustees, B. A. Baker, Frank Hilger, Otto Hudson, Dan Samsel, Geo. H. Warwick, R. E. Buser; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1932—President, Chas. E. Boston; Trustees, B. A. Baker, R. E. Buser, Frank Hilger, Otto Hudson, Dan Samsel, Geo. H. Warwick; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1933—President, Chas. E. Boston; Trustees, B. A. Baker, R. E. Buser, Frank Hilger, Otto Hudson, Dan Samsel, Geo. H. Warwick; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1934—President, Chas. E. Boston; Trustees, B. A. Baker, R. E. Buser, Frank Hilger, Otto Hudson, Dan Samsel, Geo. H. Warwick; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1935—President, Otto Hudson; Trustees, B. A. Baker, Frank Hilger, Louis F. Brayton, Nelson Bruner, H. E. Coffman, Chas. Edson; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1936—President, Otto Hudson; Trustees, B. A. Baker, Louis F. Brayton, Nelson Bruner, H. E. Coffman, Chas. Edson, Frank Hilger; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

1937—President, Otto Hudson; Trustees, Nelson Bruner, Chas. Edson, Frank Hilger, Cyril E. Avey, H. E. Longman, H. A. Patterson; Clerk, Fred Frederickson; Treasurer, Dan Miller.

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Chapter 4

INCORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP

THE Township of Mount Morris was organized in the year 1850, under the Township Organization Law, passed by the State Legislature in February of the year previous. The first town meeting was held on the second day of April, 1850, in the chapel of Rock River Seminary, for the purpose of choosing town officers. At this meeting, D. J. Pinckney was moderator and Benj. G. Stephens, clerk. A resolution was passed to divide the township into six road districts, and an overseer of highways was appointed for each district. The election of town officers, as required by law to be elected by ballot, resulted as follows: For supervisor, James B. McCoy; town clerk, A. Q. Allen; assessor, M. Garman; collector, Jonathan Knodle, Sr.; highway commissioners, Abram Thomas, Jacob Myers, Henry Hiestand; constables, Peter Knodle, Henry Little; justices of the peace, James M. Webb, Henry Little; overseer of the poor, Benj. G. Stephens.

The voters at this first township election numbered 107, many of whose names are probably forgotten by the present citizens of Mount Morris. The list will be of interest to many, and is as follows:

O. N. Adams	George Brayton
Stephen Adams	Thomas Bryant
Henry Agard	David Butterbaugh
A. Q. Allen	Joel R. Carll
John Ankney	L. S. Carll
Talbot C. Ankney	Stephen H. Cheney
Daniel Arnold	Henry Clarke
George Avey	Henry Coffman
Matthew Ayers	Jacob Coffman
Elias Baker	Cooper Crews
David Beard	William Falkler
Jacob Beard	S. M. Fellows
John Beard	George Fouke
J. J. Beatty	James Fouke
Aaron Billig	Samuel Foutz
Matthew Blair	Peter Funk
W. S. Blair	Samuel Garber
F. B. Brayton	Michael Garman, Jr.

Michael Garman, Sr.	Henry Neff
Peter Glasgow	Andrew Newcomer
David Gloss	Henry Newcomer
John F. Grosh	C. C. Olds
William Grubb	John Palmer
Charles M. Haller	Adam Patterson
John Hammer	F. G. Petrie
John Harmon, Jr.	Washington Phelps
James D. Hays	Jacob Philips
William Hedges	D. J. Pinckney
Alexander Hedrick	John Reitzell
Benj. Hedrick	Isaac Rice
Salathiel Highbarger	Jacob Rice, Jr.
Jacob Hoffman	John Rice
Jacob Hykas	Martin Rodermel
N. J. Judson	Andrew Rowland
Jacob A. Knodle	John Schultz
Jonathan Knodle, Jr.	William Schultz
Jonathan Knodle, Sr.	Jonas Shafstall
Peter Knodle	Daniel Sprecher
Peter Knodle, Sr.	Philip Sprecher
John Lauderbaugh	Benj. G. Stephens
Henry Little	William Stephens
William Little	N. J. Stroh
A. C. Marston	Samuel Swingley
Richard McClain	Abraham Thomas
J. B. McCoy	Henry Thomas
Walter McNutt	Samuel Thomas
Samuel McMillen	John Wallace
Jacob Meyers	Lawrence Wallace
Jonathan Meyers	Otho Wallace
John Miller	James M. Webb
Samuel S. Miller	Samuel Webb
C. Misner	Thomas Winn
James Mitten	Enoch Wood
Joseph Muller	

From the time of this first town meeting in April, 1850, the meetings have been continued regularly in that month each year, being known as "Annual Town Meetings." The principal business to come before these meetings is the election, by ballot, of township officers, the appointment of overseers of highways of the several road districts into which the township is divided, the appropriation of funds to defray the expenses of the township, and the passage of a few laws found necessary from year to year for the welfare of the general public.

The poll-list of 1852 is interesting from the fact that in it are found the

names of Hon. Shelby M. Cullom and General John A. Rawlins, who were evidently students at the seminary at that time. The poll-list of 1860 is an exceptionally large one, containing the names of 235 voters.

October 29, 1864, a special town meeting was held, and the question voted upon whether the town should or should not levy a tax sufficient to pay the expenses incurred in furnishing eleven volunteers for the service of the United

States, in accordance with the call of the President for more troops, issued a short time previous. There were 151 votes polled, 134 in favor of the tax and 17 against.

June 30, 1870, a special town meeting was held to vote for or against a donation of \$75,000 to the Chicago & Iowa Railroad Company. This question is discussed more fully in the chapter on the coming of the railroad.

Township Officers

A complete list of all township officers elected from 1850 to the present time is as follows:

Supervisors

1850—James B. McCoy
 1851—Benjamin T. Hedrick
 1852—Andrew Newcomer
 1853—Joel R. Carll
 1854—Samuel Garber (Being a Dunkard preacher, and it being against the rules of his church for members to hold civil office, he refused to serve. Henry Hiestand was appointed in his place.)

1855-1857—Elias Baker
 1858—Daniel Sprecher
 1859-1860—Francis A. McNeill
 1861—John W. Hitt
 1862-1868—B. T. Hedrick
 1869—John W. Hitt
 1870-1872—Charles Newcomer
 1873-1878—John W. Hitt
 1879-1888—M. E. Gretzendaner
 1889—R. S. Marshall
 1890-1892—H. H. Clevidence
 1893-1896—William Stahlhut
 1897-1906—George V. Farwell
 1907-1918—Lewis C. Sprecher
 1919-1936—John H. Miller
 1937-1938—Jess H. Smith

Township Clerks

1850—A. Q. Allen
 1851—John F. Grosh
 1852-1853—Lyman S. Carll
 1854—William Schultz
 1855—B. K. Shryock
 1856—William Schultz
 1857—A. Q. Allen
 1858—Lyman Coffman
 1859-1860—Samuel Knodle
 1861-1862—George W. Marshall
 1863-1864—James M. Webb
 1865-1868—Martin T. Rohrer
 1869-1870—Frederick B. Brayton
 1871—H. H. Clevidence
 1872—J. M. Piper
 1873-1877—H. H. Clevidence
 1878—William H. Miller
 1879—Lewis Sprecher
 1880—John H. Swingley
 1881-1887—William H. Miller
 1888—H. H. Clevidence
 1889—John H. Miller

1890—Henry Lohafer
 1891—Philip T. Sprecher
 1892—Daniel B. Keedy
 1893—Jonathan Hiestand
 1894-1927—William H. Miller
 1928-1930—John I. Newcomer
 1931-1937—Chas. E. Boston

Township Assessors

1850—M. Garman
 1851—William Schultz
 1852—Henry Hiestand
 1853—Otho Wallace
 1854—Samuel Long
 1855—A. Q. Allen
 1856—George W. Phelps
 1857—Daniel Sprecher
 1858—Martin T. Rohrer
 1859—Elijah Lott
 1860—James M. Webb
 1861-1862—Michael Garman
 1863—Isaac Newcomer
 1864-1865—Andrew Newcomer
 1866—A. Q. Allen
 1867—James M. Webb
 1868-1869—William Falkler
 1870—Elijah Lott
 1871—Abraham Thomas
 1872-1875—Francis W. Stonebraker
 1876—Martin T. Rohrer
 1877—Charles Smith
 1878-1880—Abraham Thomas
 1881-1884—Charles Smith
 1885—William H. McCoy
 1886-1889—Charles H. Allen
 1890—Alfred C. Middlekauff
 1891-1899—Charles H. Allen
 1900—S. C. Kinsey
 1901-1917—Chas. H. Allen
 1918-1923—C. E. Price
 1924-1936—Jess H. Smith
 1937—Elmer Clapper

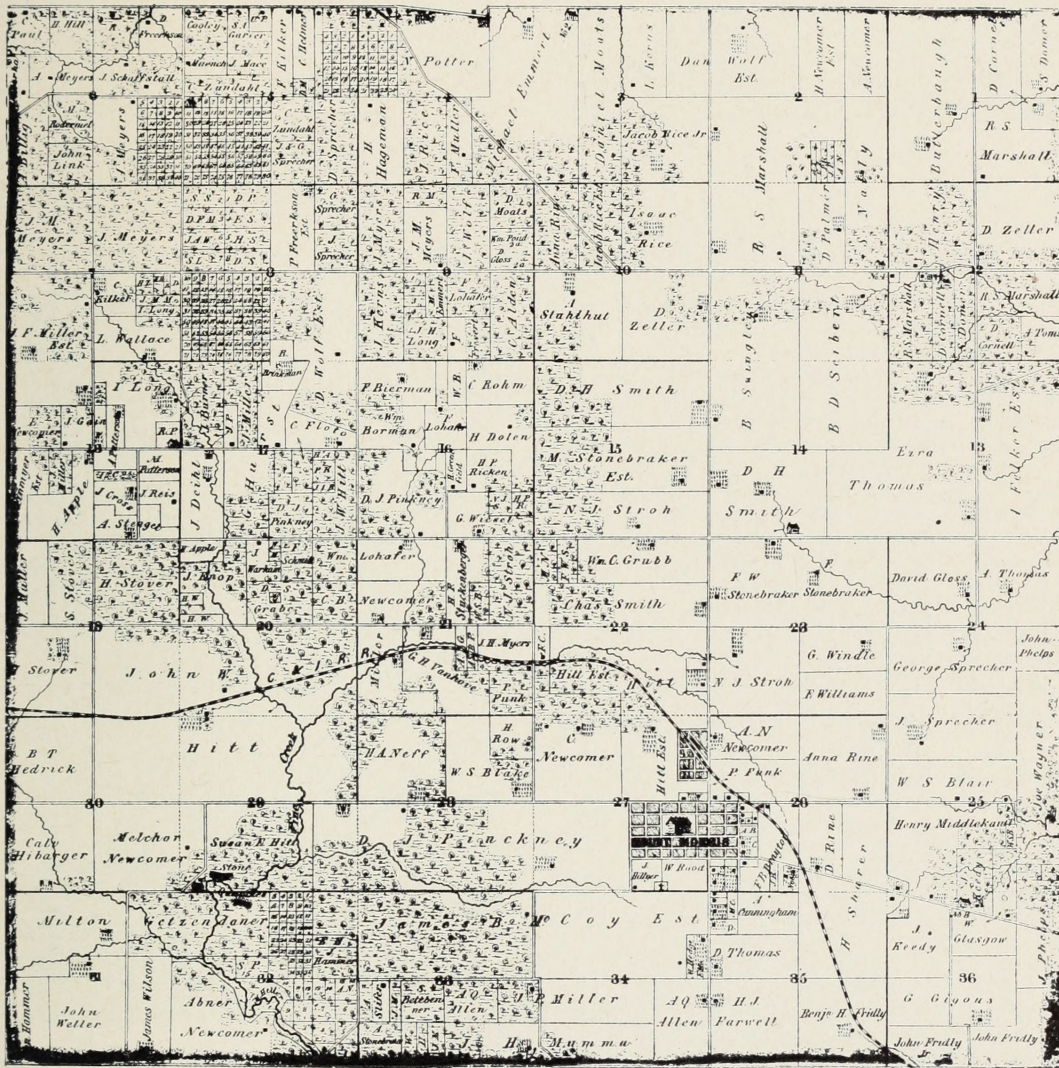
Township Collectors

1850-1852—Jonathan Knodle
 1853-1854—Alexander Hedrick
 1855-1860—Peter Knodle
 1861—John McC. Miller
 1862-1863—Peter Knodle
 1864—James M. Webb
 1865-1867—Peter Knodle
 1868—John McC. Miller
 1869-1871—Peyton Skinner
 1872—Henry H. Newcomer
 1873—George W. Fouke

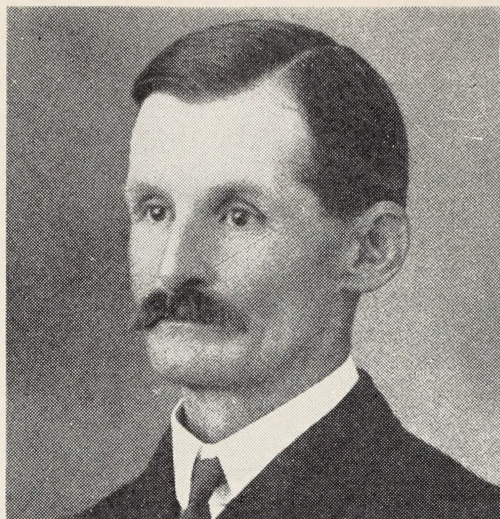
1874—John Sharer
 1875—Muhlenburg Stroh
 1876—Samuel Knodle
 1877—Samuel Lookabaugh
 1878-1879—Joseph Guynn
 1880-1881—A. M. Newcomer
 1882—Jonathan Knodle
 1883-1884—Benjamin Rine
 1885—Charles V. Davis
 1886-1887—Leslie S. Hill
 1888—James D. Hays
 1889—Ira Wingert
 1890—Henry L. Smith
 1891-1892—William H. Miller
 1893—Daniel B. Keedy

1894—C. C. Gimple
 1895—Vance C. Miller
 1896—C. C. Gimple
 1897—S. C. Kinsey
 1898-1905—S. J. Hess
 1906—S. E. Avey
 1907—Vance C. Miller
 1908-1916—Lloyd Merryman

All county taxes from the year 1917 to the present were collected by the County Treasurer at Oregon, due to the elimination of the township tax collectors in 1916.



THE ABOVE PLAT of Mount Morris Township which appeared in the Combination Atlas of Ogle County, published in 1872, shows the original claims of many of the settlers who came to this country in the early thirties and forties. Note the large claims of D. J. Pinckney and James B. McCoy just west and south of Mount Morris; also the Hitt estate to the north and the Henry Sharer land to the southeast. Other well-known men who owned farms at that time in the township as shown on this map are F. B. Brayton, Rev. N. J. Stroh, A. Quinby Allen, H. J. Farwell, Benj. H. Fridley, John Fridley, Melchor Newcomer, F. W. Stonebraker, R. S. Marshall and many others. In the extreme southeast corner may be seen the property of John Phelps where the first cabin was built in 1834.

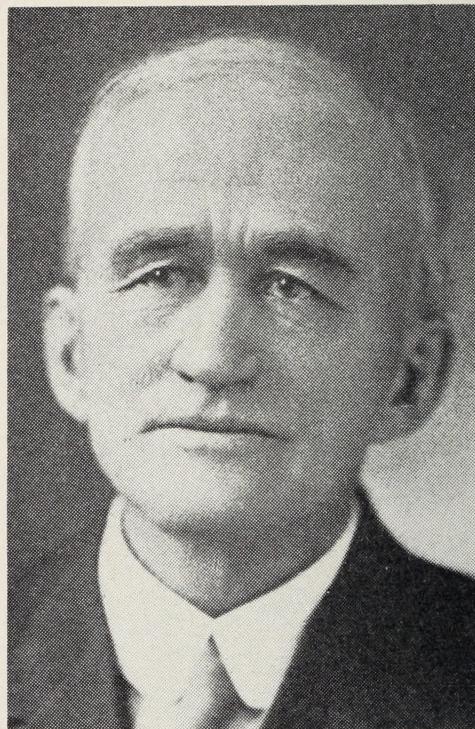


GEORGE V. FARWELL, son of Henry J. and Mahala (Fouke) Farwell, was born March 18, 1860, at the Farwell homestead south of Mount Morris. He farmed the home farm until he retired and moved to Mount Morris in 1918. He served as supervisor of Mount Morris Township for ten years, was village trustee for one term, and director of School District No. 61 for one term. He is a member of the local Masonic lodge. Mr. Farwell married Cornelia Swingley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Swingley, in 1902, and they have one daughter, Louise, who married Geo. E. Wilson. They own a fine home at 309 E. Brayton Road.

Highway Commissioners

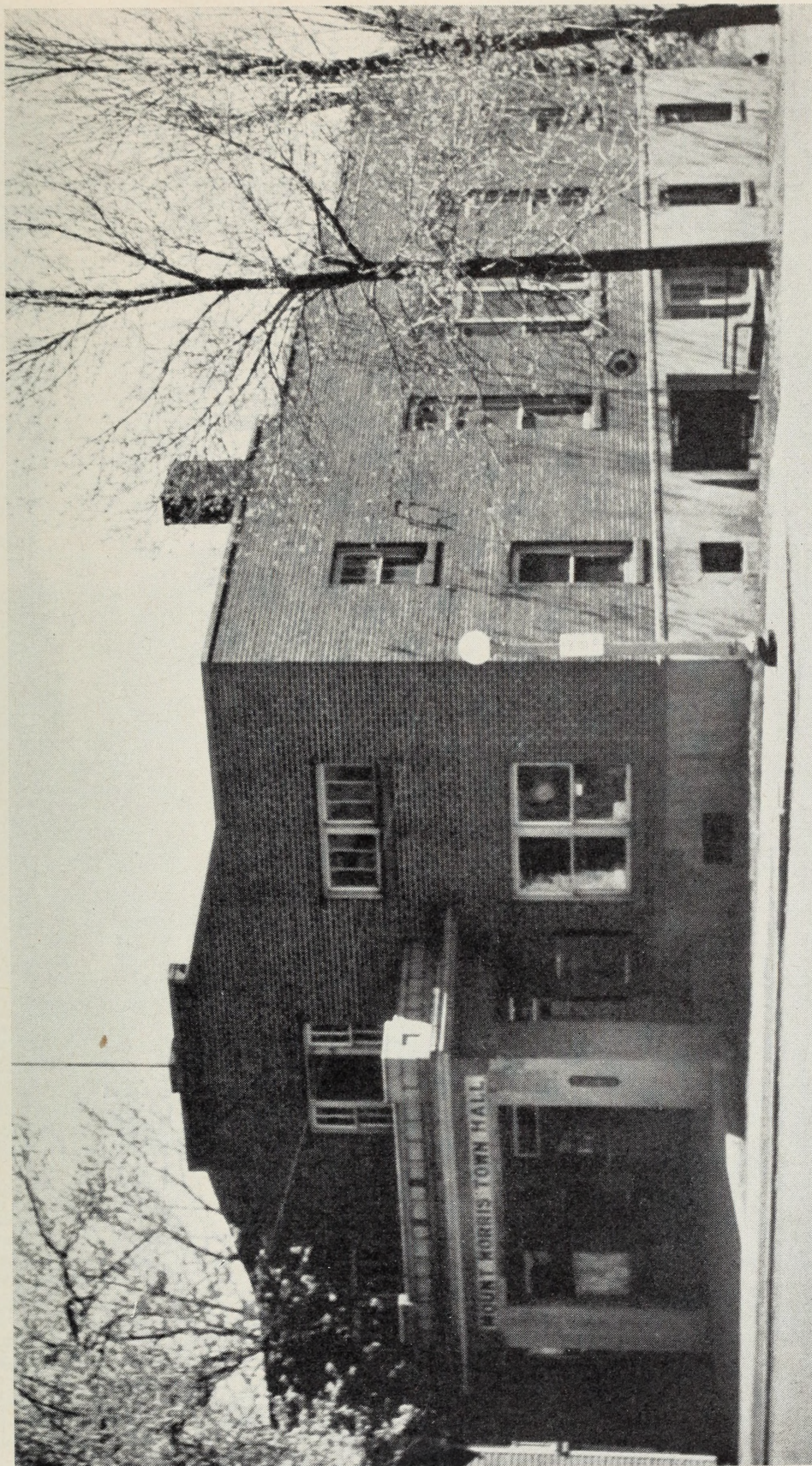
1850—Abram Thomas, Jacob Myers, Henry Hiestand
 1851—Joel R. Carll, Jacob Turney, Henry Sharer
 1852—Joel R. Carll, Jacob Myers, Abram Thomas
 1853—George Swingley, Henry Hiestand, Lyman S. Carll
 1854—A. Q. Allen, Jacob Coffman, William Falkler
 1855—Jacob Coffman, A. Q. Allen, H. J. Farwell
 1856—Abram Thomas, Jacob Coffman, Samuel Long
 1857—Jacob Coffman, J. B. McCoy, L. S. Carll
 1858—Joel R. Carll, Jacob Coffman, Michael Stonebraker
 1859—William Rine, Joel R. Carll, Jacob Coffman
 1860—Same as year previous
 1861—William Rine, Joel R. Carll, B. F. Hedrick
 1862—William Rine
 1863—Martin T. Rohrer
 1864—Jacob Phillips
 1865—H. J. Farwell
 1866—Reuben Marshall
 1867—Jacob Phillips
 1868—H. J. Farwell

1869—Reuben Marshall
 1870—William Lohafer
 1871—Charles Smith
 1872—Reuben Marshall
 1873—William Lohafer
 1874—Charles Smith
 1875—W. S. Blake
 1876—R. S. Marshall
 1877-1878—Jonathan Shafstal
 1879—R. S. Marshall
 1880—Jacob G. Miller
 1881-1882—Jonathan Shafstal
 1883—Jacob G. Miller
 1884—Jonathan Shafstal
 1885—R. S. Marshall
 1886—Henry Stahlhut
 1887—George V. Farwell
 1888—R. S. Marshall
 1889—Henry Stahlhut
 1890—Christian Zumdahl
 1891-1892—R. S. Marshall
 1893—George V. Farwell
 1894—R. S. Marshall
 1895—Frank Muller
 1896—George V. Farwell
 1897—R. S. Marshall
 1898—Edward Potter

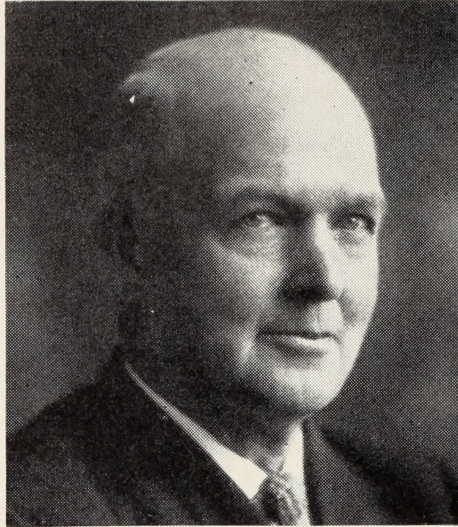


LEWIS C. SPRECHER served as Supervisor of Mount Morris Township from 1907 to 1918. He was the son of Daniel and Barbara (Coffman) Sprecher, was born near Mount Morris, Jan. 20, 1849, and died May 27, 1928, aged 79 years. He lived his entire life in or near Mount Morris and for many years was active in political, church and business circles of the village. In 1879, he married Ann Lookabaugh, who died in 1907. They had one daughter, Mrs. Edith Rowe.

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THE MOUNT MORRIS TOWN HALL was erected by Mount Morris Township in 1917 at a cost of \$10,000.00. It occupies the site of the old Startzman Building.



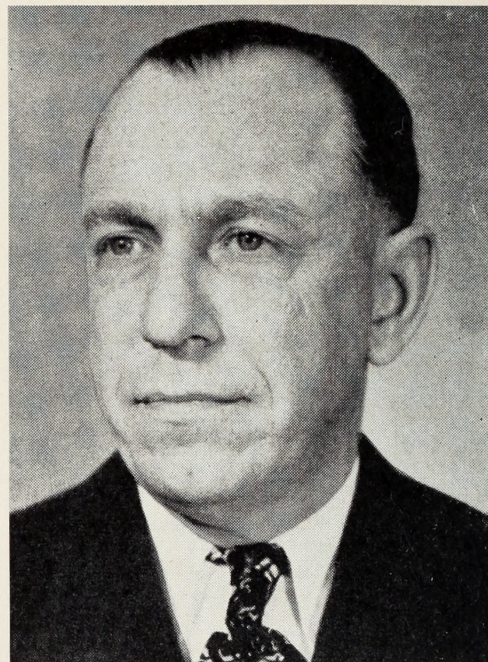
JOHN H. MILLER served as Supervisor of Mount Morris Township from 1919 to 1936. He was the son of Abram and Barbara Miller, and was born on the Miller homestead, three miles northwest of Mount Morris, Dec. 24, 1865. He died in Mount Morris, Dec. 3, 1936, aged nearly 71 years. He engaged in farming for a number of years, operated a livery stable in Mount Morris for a time, and later became a traveling salesman for an implement house. He served one term as president of the village board of trustees and 16 years as Supervisor of Mount Morris Township. In 1890, he married Miss Myrtle Rine, who passed away in August, 1922. There were two children, Mrs. Mabel Boydston and Harold. In 1927 he was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Sprecher, present manager of the John Sprecher dry goods store.

1899—W. E. McCready
 1900—Ira W. Marshall
 1901—Eugene Wallace
 1902—W. E. McCready
 1903—I. W. Marshall
 1904—E. E. Potter
 1905—W. E. McCready
 1906—Noble F. Thomas
 1907—E. E. Potter
 1908—W. E. McCready
 1909—Joseph W. Mayer
 1910—E. E. Potter
 1911—W. E. McCready
 1912—Joseph W. Mayer
 1913—E. E. Potter
 1914-1921—C. F. Tice
 1922-1937—Chas. Swingley

Justices of the Peace

1850-1853—James M. Webb, Henry Little
 1854-1857—Benjamin T. Hedrick, James M. Webb
 1858-1859—James M. Webb, Charles M. Haller
 1860-1861—Joel R. Carll
 1862-1865—James M. Webb, Andrew Newcomer

1866-1869—James M. Webb, Andrew Newcomer
 1870—Elijah Lott, Andrew Newcomer
 1871-1873—Elijah Lott, Daniel Thomas
 1874—William Rine
 1875-1876—Andrew Newcomer
 1877-1880—Peyton Skinner, John Weller
 1881-1884—Andrew Newcomer, A. Q. Allen
 1885-1888—John Weller, Daniel Fager
 1889-1892—John Weller, R. D. McClure
 1893-1896—R. D. McClure, H. G. Kauffman
 1897-1900—R. D. McClure, Jonathan Hiestand
 1901-1914—A. M. Newcomer, Jonathan Hiestand
 1915-1917—H. C. Clark, Jonathan Hiestand
 1918-1920—J. I. Newcomer, Jonathan Hiestand
 1921-1923—H. C. Clark, Amos N. Baker
 1924-1923—Harvey Long, Calvin H. Mishler
 1930-1932—Harvey Long, E. W. Middour
 1933-1937—Robert W. Hough, E. W. Middour



JESSE H. SMITH, supervisor for Mount Morris Township, is the son of Henry L. and Carrie (Knodle) Smith and was born April 6, 1897. He graduated from Mount Morris High School in 1913. He was tax assessor from 1928 to 1937 when he resigned to succeed John H. Miller as supervisor. He enlisted July, 1917, with Company K, 129th Infantry, and was discharged because of physical disqualification. He is a member of the Business Men's League and the local Masonic Lodge. Mr. Smith was married in 1920 to Olive Middlekauff and they have two children, Jean and Donald.

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Constables

Note—Judging from the records, the office of constable was filled in a very erratic manner. Some years there were two officers elected; some years, only one, and frequently, none at all. The term of service also varied, being of different lengths until 1881, when it was fixed at four years.

1850—Peter Knodle, Henry Little
 1851-1854—Peter Knodle, James Fouke
 1855-1856—Peter Knodle, Alex. A. Cook
 1857-1858—Lewis Fletcher, William L.

Coho

1859-1860—Peter Knodle, William L. Coho

Coho

1861—William Bull
 1862—Peter Knodle
 1863-1865—William Bull, Peter Knodle
 1866—William Bull, Peter Knodle
 1867-1870—William Bull, Peter Knodle
 1871-1872—John Black, A. M. Doward
 1873-1875—Franklin W. Black, William

Bull

1876—A. W. Little
 1877-1879—J. B. McCoy, Samuel Mumma
 1880—James B. McCoy
 1881-1884—Henry L. Smith, Benj. F.

Tracy

1885-1888—Charles Smith, Daniel B.

Keedy

1889-1892—Charles Smith, William

Domer

1893-1896—Charles Rubsamen, William

H. Keedy

1897-1900—George H. Myers, Fred. Long

1901-1904—O. E. Huff, Jonathan Hies-

tand

1905-1907—A. M. Newcomer, Frank C.

Keedy

1908—Wm. H. Domer, Frank C. Keedy

1909—Grant Unger, Frank C. Keedy

1910-1912—Grant Unger, I. N. Potter

1913-1914—William H. Domer, I. N.

Potter

1916-1917—William H. Domer, John

Rudy

1917-1924—I. N. Potter, C. C. Crowell

1925-1928—I. N. Potter, Wm. Ballard

1929-1932—I. N. Potter, James Rouse

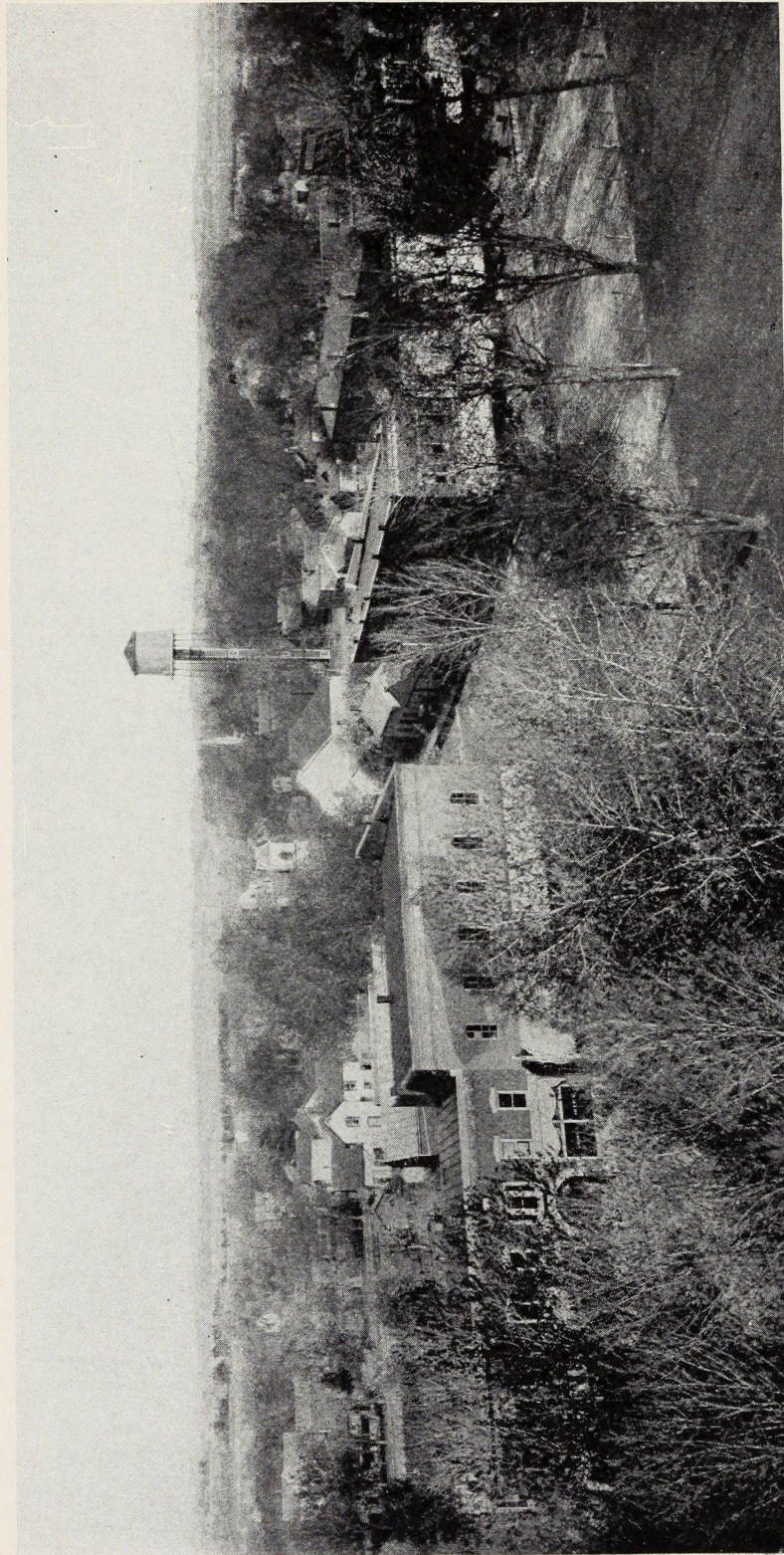
1933-1936—I. N. Potter, W. E. Hill

1937—I. N. Potter, Abe Deacon

School Trustees

1870—Henry Sharer
 1871—John E. McCoy
 1872—Isaac Rice

1873—Henry Sharer
 1874—John E. McCoy
 1875-1876—Henry T. Moats
 1877—John E. McCoy
 1878—Levi Kerns
 1879—Henry T. Moats
 1880—John E. McCoy
 1881—Levi Kerns
 1882—John Weller
 1883—John E. McCoy
 1884—Levi Kerns
 1885—W. S. Blake
 1886—John E. Tice
 1887—Jacob O. Thomas
 1888—W. S. Blake
 1889—William Stahlhut
 1890—Josiah Avey
 1891-1892—Jacob O. Thomas
 1893—Andrew Gigous
 1894—Jacob O. Thomas
 1895—C. A. Zumdahl
 1896—Andrew Gigous
 1897—Oliver Gloss
 1898—W. A. Newcomer
 1899—Andrew Gigous
 1900—William Stahlhut
 1901—C. A. Zumdahl
 1902—Andrew Gigous
 1903—James H. Stevens
 1904—C. A. Zumdahl
 1905—Andrew Gigous
 1906—James H. Stevens
 1907—C. A. Zumdahl
 1908—Andrew Gigous
 1909—James H. Stevens
 1910—C. A. Zumdahl
 1911—Lewis Paul
 1912—James H. Stevens
 1913—C. A. Zumdahl
 1914—George Appel
 1915—Lewis Paul
 1916—Joseph C. Muller
 1917—George Appel
 1918—Lewis Paul
 1919—Joseph C. Muller
 1920—George Appel
 1921—Charles Stengel
 1922—Joseph C. Muller
 1923—Charles Stengel
 1924—Charles Zumdahl
 1925—Joseph C. Muller
 1926—Charles Stengel
 1927—Charles Zumdahl
 1928—Joseph C. Muller
 1929—Charles Stengel
 1930—Joseph C. Muller
 1931—Charles Stengel
 1932—Charles Stengel
 1933-1934—Joseph C. Muller
 1935-1936—Charles Zumdahl
 1937—Charles Stengel



BIRD'S-EYE VIEW of Mount Morris, taken in 1900, looking southeast from College Hall.

Chapter 5

ROCK RIVER SEMINARY

THE name Rock River Seminary is perhaps fading from the memory of the younger generation, but to the older citizens of Mount Morris, and to thousands scattered all over this broad land, the remembrances of that grand old institution of learning will live until they are effaced by the hand of Death. During the most palmy days of the seminary, Mount Morris enjoyed the distinction of being the great literary center of the northwest, and was justly proud of "Old Sandstone," standing so prominently in the center of the dignified little village. In reviewing the progress of this institution, it must be remembered that its pupils were gathered from a very wide extent of territory. There are probably more young men and women now in one-half of Ogle County, who desire and need the advantages of such an institution, than there were then in all northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin, and Rock River Seminary was the only institution of the kind then in existence in all this great territory. For this reason, if for no other, the seminary exerted a commanding influence in all this region. It is not strange, therefore, that, during the long term of its existence, the school played a very important part in moulding the destinies of the inhabitants of the comparatively unknown northwest—a part that cannot be told in words, but which is nevertheless written in characters ineffaceable upon the hearts of those who within the walls of "Old Sandstone" received their inspiration to become noble men and women and to be of use in the world, the fruits of whose endeavor eternity alone can reveal.

Rock River Seminary was founded in the year 1839, chiefly by the exertions of a few public-spirited settlers living

in the vicinity. These gentlemen were strong advocates of liberal education and had previously instituted and supported a school called the Pine Creek Grammar School, taught by A. Quinby Allen. They conceived the idea of developing this school into an institution of learning of high character; and, after consultation, they decided that the Rev. Thomas S. Hitt should attend the Illinois Conference of the M. E. Church, in session at Jacksonville in 1838, for the purpose of inducing that body to take the Pine Creek Grammar School under its special charge and develop it into an institution of high standing.

Rev. Hitt laid the matter before the Conference, of which Rev. John Clark was Presiding Elder, and urged that body to become directly interested in the little school then just established by the Maryland colonists. The Conference, however, while deeply interested in the cause of education, was inclined to consider such action of doubtful propriety; but, after mature deliberation, appointed a committee to select a suitable location in Northern Illinois for a seminary. That committee was composed of Rev. John Clark, Rev. Leander S. Walker, Rev. Thomas S. Hitt and Rev. P. R. Borien, who were to receive propositions from various places desiring the seminary, and willing to contribute to its foundation and support. Propositions were received from Joliet, Chicago, Roscoe, Kishwaukee and the Maryland Colony. Roscoe and Kishwaukee, then prosperous cities, now nearly forgotten, were, with the Maryland Colony, the principal competitors.

When Mr. Hitt returned with this proposition, a few large-hearted far-seeing and public-spirited settlers living in the vicinity—Samuel M. Hitt, John Wallace, Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, Capt.

Nathaniel Swingley, Martin Reynolds, C. B. Artz, David Warden, and two or three others—determined to secure the location for the "Maryland Colony." Numerous consultations were held, a general line of action agreed upon, and each pledged a liberal contribution—so liberal that when the fact that they had hardly had time since their arrival to secure comfortable dwellings for their families, their enthusiasm appears indeed astonishing. Eight thousand dollars and 480 acres of land were pledged, a heavy burden to be boldly assumed on behalf of the rising and future generations by a little handful of men in a new country, where money was scarce and laborers few.

In the spring of 1839, the committee visited all the locations from which propositions had been received, closing their tour with the Maryland Colony, where they arrived about the 1st of May. May 3, 1839, the members visited Mr. Allen's school and after witnessing the exercises, requested the school to retire that they might have the room for consultation. It is needless to add that the teachers and pupils did not go far, but gathered in groups around the building where they could hear the discussions within. Several of the citizens, in their anxiety for the result, also lingered near. The discussions were animated. Some of the members favored Kishwaukee, others Roscoe, and the session was protracted far into the night. But at last the chairman threw his influence in favor of the "Maryland Colony," and this settled the question. The anxious listeners outside gave vent to their feelings by throwing up their hats and making the "welkin ring" with their joyous hurrahs.

The next day, May 4, 1839, the committee proceeded to select a site for the future seminary, which was destined to exercise such an important influence in Northern Illinois, and "drove the stake" on the summit into which the grandly rolling prairie crested, where the committee had a commanding view of a large extent of country of almost marvelous beauty, dotted on every side with near approaching groves.

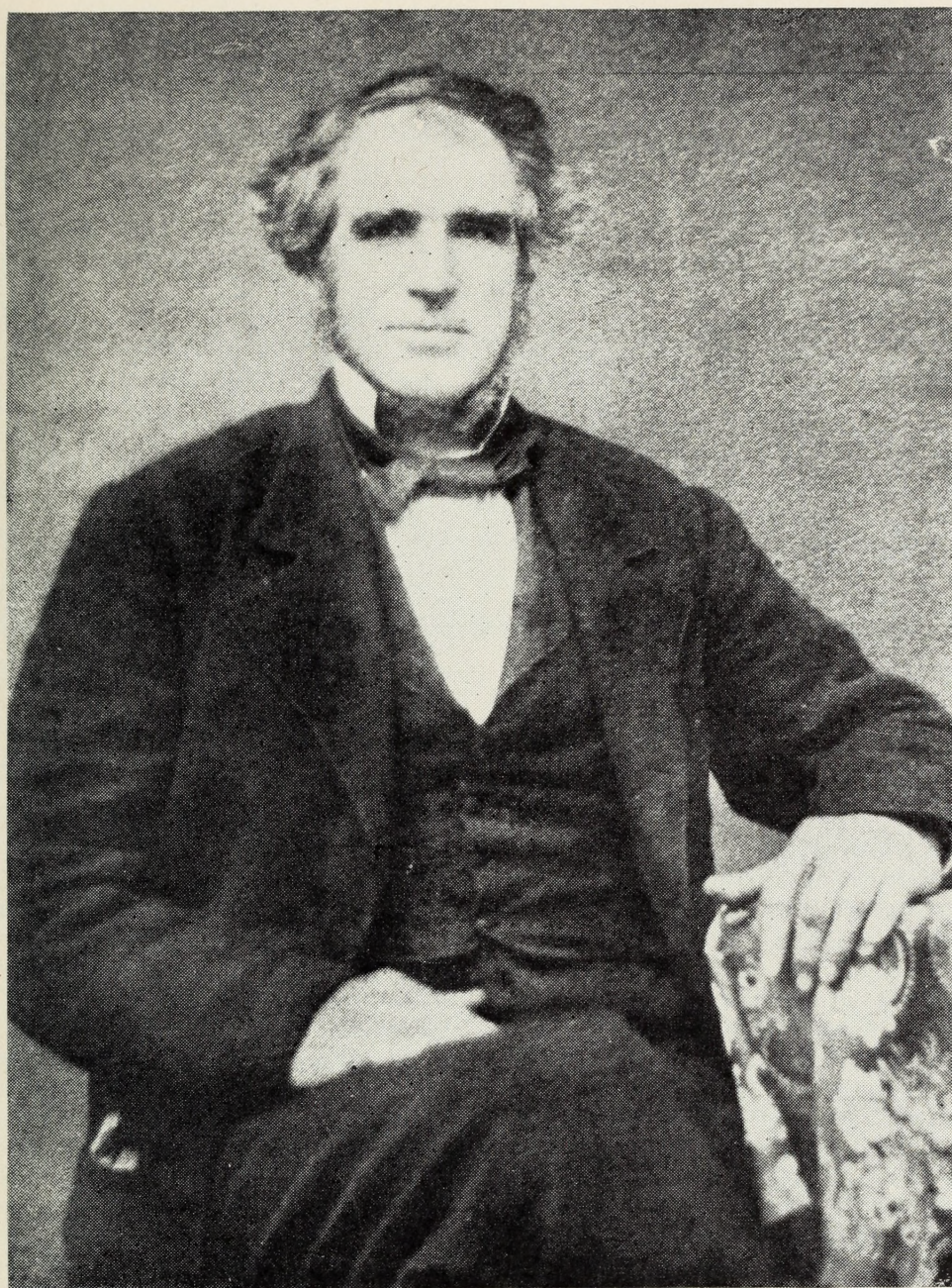
No time was lost. The energetic founders of the institute held a meeting

at once, and selected a building committee consisting of Messrs. Samuel M. Hitt, Nathaniel Swingley and C. B. Artz. This committee received plans and proposals from James B. McCoy and Elias Etnyre. That of Mr. McCoy was accepted, and the contract was awarded to him for \$18,000.00.

Work was commenced at once and pushed with such energy that arrangements were made to lay the cornerstone on the 4th day of July following, with appropriate ceremonies. On the day appointed, the basement walls were partly laid, and at the southwest angle the walls had been raised sufficiently high to support the corner-stone. The people collected from far and near, for it was an occasion of intense interest to them. It was estimated that there were over five hundred people present, which was an immense throng for such a thinly-populated country. For the pupils of that little pioneer "grammar" school, it was a glorious gala day, and "dress parade" is no adequate appellation to designate their appearance, marshaled in double file, in front of that old log schoolhouse, with their teacher at their head and provided with a banner, bearing upon one side the words "United We Stand, Divided We Fall," and upon the other "Science and Virtue." The wild delight of their young hearts leaped forth from their sparkling eyes, and their very feet kept willing time to the music of the hour, as they marched with proud and elastic step to the beautiful spot where the cornerstone of a magnificent temple of instruction for their benefit was to be laid.

In the receptacle prepared for the purpose were deposited copies of all the Methodist papers and periodicals of the day, a sample of the silver coin of the United States, a full history of the enterprise to that date, with the names of the building committee, enclosed in a glass bottle and hermetically sealed.

The cornerstone was laid and the oration pronounced by Rev. Thomas S. Hitt. The half dozen families then residing within a radius of five or six miles had spread tables on the grounds east of the building, bountifully supplied, and here, at the close of the services, they fed the multitude. The occa-



JAMES B. McCOY was the builder of the original "Old Sandstone." He was awarded the contract for \$18,000, and started the work in the spring of 1839, when there was not a single building within the present limits of Mount Morris. Mr. McCoy was born Aug. 14, 1810, in Washington County, Md., and came here in 1838. Later he married Elizabeth Ankney, a widow lady who came with the first colony from Washington County, Md., in 1837. He was a large man and they raised a family of five sons, all of whom were more than six feet tall. Their names were John E., James B., Archibald S., William H. and Allen J. Mr. McCoy died Jan. 14, 1871, at the age of 62 years.



THIS is the first house actually built within the present corporate limits of Mount Morris. It was erected in 1839 by James B. McCoy in which to house and feed his carpenters while building the first seminary building on what was selected as the site of Rock River Seminary. In 1841, this frame building was moved to the southeast part of town where it was used for many years as a residence by William Fouke. Later it was used as a barn and was torn down in 1921.

sion marked a new era in the history of the pioneer settlement of the Northwest, and the day was long to be remembered.

During the summer and fall of 1839, a portion of the prairie around the building in process of erection was surveyed and platted by D. Fletcher Hitt, and the embryo town was named Mount Morris. The *Rock River Register*, in 1842, stated that the town was named in honor of Bishop Robert Morris of the Methodist Church.

The first meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Nov. 18, 1839, at which Rev. John Clark, Rev. B. Weed, Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, John Wallace, Horace Miller, C. B. Artz, Dr. J. J. Beatty, Capt. Nathaniel Swingley and S. M. Bowman were present. Rev. John Clark was elected president; Rev. B. Weed, vice-president; Rev. Samuel M. Hitt, treasurer; S. M. Bowman, secretary; and Grant Goodrich, George D. H. Wilcoxon and James Johnson were elected members of the board.

At this meeting, Rev. Thomas S. Hitt, who had been appointed agent of the institution, and who was its agent for a long time afterward, and to whom was largely entrusted the management of its affairs, reported the amount of contributions that had been pledged, and was authorized to raise money upon the sale of scholarships as follows: For one year, \$25; for two years, \$50; for four years, \$100; perpetual, \$500. In conjunction with the building committee, he was authorized to negotiate a loan of \$4,000, and clothed with power to call future meetings of the trustees. In an historical sketch of this institution, written later by Robert R. Hitt, it was remarked, "The facility with which this institution glided into debt was a marked characteristic in its history."

At this November meeting, it was resolved to apply to the next Legislature for an act of incorporation, and a committee, consisting of Rev. John Clark, Hon. Thomas Ford and C. B. Artz, was appointed to draft a charter to be sub-

mitted to the General Assembly of Illinois.

Another committee, consisting of Revs. John Clark, B. Weed, Thomas S. Hitt, James J. Beatty and Horace Miller, was appointed to employ a principal and teachers.

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Oregon, Jan. 27, 1840, at which John Clark, Thomas S. Hitt, C. B. Artz, Nathaniel Swingley, M. Reynolds, John Wallace, Thomas Ford and Horace Miller were present. At this meeting, the following resolution was adopted:

"Resolved, That a circular be drafted and addressed to the several presiding elders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the northern part of Illinois, and the Territories of Wisconsin and Iowa, setting forth the present condition and ultimate design of the Rock River Seminary, and earnestly requesting them to use their influence with the several traveling and local preachers and others in their respective districts to take up, as soon as practicable, collections in small sums from all individuals who may be willing to contribute to the erection of said Seminary."

In anticipation of the opening of the school, it was ordered that the price of board of students under 15 years of age should be \$1.50 per week; over that age \$1.75. The rates of tuition were also established, and it was agreed that John Wallace should act as steward of the Seminary. The efforts to raise money were energetically continued through the winter of 1839-40, with considerable success, and the originators of this bold scheme to establish a seminary in the wilderness began to feel confident of success.

At an adjourned meeting of the board, May 30, 1840, the committee reported the engagement of Prof. Joseph N. Waggoner, of the Genesee (N.Y.) Wesleyan Seminary, and an arrangement was made with him to allow him \$30 for his traveling expenses to this county, and \$20 per month for his services as teacher, for three months, from June 1.

The seminary building was not ready for occupation on the 1st of June, and Mr. Waggoner taught school during the

summer in the log school house, where Mr. A. Q. Allen had first wielded the birch.

The annual session of the Rockford Conference was appointed at Mount Morris, in the fall of 1840. It was expected that the Seminary building would be so far completed that the meeting could be accommodated beneath its roof. But in this the people were disappointed; the plastering was not done, and they held a camp-meeting in the grove, about two miles northwest of the unfinished edifice.

At the session of the Rock River Conference, at Mount Morris, Sept. 2, 1840, the following Board of Trustees for Rock River Seminary was appointed: John Clark, Samuel M. Hitt, John H. Rountree, J. B. Crist, Anthony Pitzer, Nathaniel Swingley, Leander S. Walker, James Mitchell, John Sinclair, C. Burr Artz, Thomas Ford, Bartholomew Weed, Thomas S. Hitt and James J. Beatty, and on the evening of the same day the new Board organized by the choice of John Clark, president, and Thomas S. Hitt, secretary.

October 2, 1840, Rev. John Sharp was appointed steward; T. S. Hitt, John Wallace, Anthony Pitzer and John Sharp were appointed an executive committee. Thomas S. Hitt was appointed to make a final settlement with Mr. McCoy. Prof. Waggoner's wages were continued as first agreed upon until the commencement of the first term, when his salary was to be fixed at \$300 a year.

The first term of the Rock River Seminary commenced on the first Friday in November, 1840, and continued twenty-two weeks, with a goodly number of students when the fact is remembered that the country was very sparsely settled. The first board of instruction consisted of Prof. Joseph N. Waggoner, principal and professor of languages; Rev. Lyman Catlin, professor of mathematics; and Miss Cornelia N. Russell, preceptress.

The second term commenced the first Friday in May, 1841, with the same board of instruction and a primary department in charge of Mrs. Fanny Russell. This was the town school, under the charge of the Seminary, and of

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course increased the number of students. The primary department was discontinued in 1843.

December 29, 1840, the following resolutions were adopted: "Resolved, That lots be donated to applicants applying until the 1st of June next, who shall build a house of stone, brick or frame not less than 16 x 24 feet, 1½ stories high, to be fit for occupancy by the 1st of January, 1842, or sooner. Resolved, That all lots in the town of Mount Morris be deeded with the proviso that houses of ill fame, gambling and retailing of ardent spirits be prohibited."

January 3, 1841, the Seminary was formally dedicated, the address on the interesting occasion being delivered by Samuel N. Samples, a lawyer of Oregon.

Rev. Luke Hitchcock was appointed as an additional special agent to assist Mr. Hitt, whose health had become impaired.

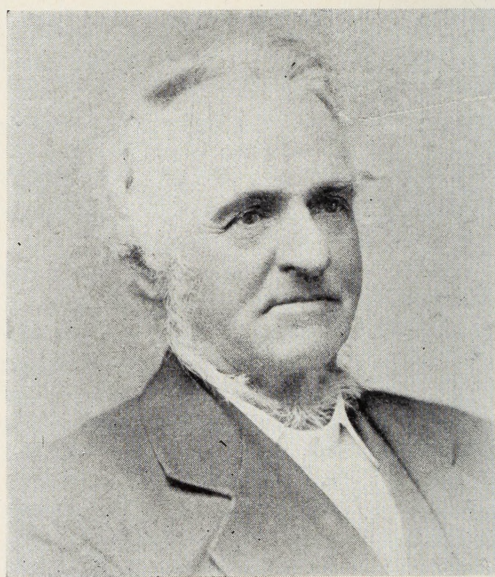
By act of the General Assembly of Illinois, approved Feb. 18, 1841, the Rock River Seminary was incorporated. The incorporators named in the act were John Clark, Leander S. Walker, Thomas S. Hitt, Jacob B. Crist, C. Burr Artz, Samuel M. Hitt, John Wallace, Nathaniel Swingley, Anthony Pitzer and James J. Beatty. The number of trustees was not to exceed twelve, exclusive of the principal, or presiding officer of the Seminary, who was made, ex-officio, a member of the Board.

At a special meeting of the corporation, April 29, 1841, the charter was unanimously accepted; and on the 6th of May, J. Clark was elected chairman; T. S. Hitt, secretary; and A. Pitzer, treasurer.

Mr. Catlin, who remained in the institution several years, was a good teacher, Miss Cornelia N. Russell was an accomplished teacher, and a lady whose sweetness of character and skill as a teacher was never forgotten by the hundreds of students who attended during her term of service. Prof. Waggoner proved himself to be an able and faithful instructor. In later years he became a prosperous bookseller at Galena.

April 8, 1842, Rev. Daniel J. Pinckney was elected principal of the Seminary. He was, when elected, a professor in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (N.Y.). Prof. Pinckney arrived at Chicago on

the 5th of August, 1842, where the Rock River Conference was in session, and at Mount Morris the Saturday night following. The next day, Sabbath, he addressed the people. Upon his arrival, he found the institution heavily burdened with debt (over \$16,000), the building unfinished, and only sixteen students in attendance. From that time until the commencement of the fall and winter term in November, he traveled extensively and lectured in the principal towns of northern Illinois and Wisconsin in the interest of the institution and for securing students. The fall term opened with one hundred and fifty students, and from that time onward it was successful in its literary and scientific departments, but, for reasons already shown, was much embarrassed finan-



PROF. DANIEL J. PINCKNEY came to Mount Morris in August, 1842, to assume the duties of principal of Rock River Seminary, which position he held for about thirteen years. Later on, Prof. Pinckney became the editor of the Mount Morris Gazette and also of the Mount Morris Independent, two early newspapers, and he was also connected with several mercantile enterprises. Prof. Pinckney, before coming to Mount Morris, was a teacher in the Genesee Wesleyan Seminary, a Methodist institution of Lima, N.Y. He established his home west of Mount Morris on what was later known as the Lohafer farm. He married Margaret C. Hitt, daughter of Samuel M. Hitt. Prof. Pinckney died in 1888 and Mrs. Pinckney in 1905. They are buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

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cially. There seems to have been no lack of students, the great difficulty being the want of sufficient accommodations for those who desired to attend. During his administration, a large number of young men received their education at this institution, remaining several years after they entered, until they graduated.

In March, 1845, in consequence of ill health, Prof. Pinckney left the institution temporarily in charge of Prof. S. R. Thorpe, his able and efficient assistant, for the remainder of the term. At the end of that term Prof. Pinckney and P. Judson, secretary of the board, were appointed to secure the services of Dr. J. C. Finley, formerly of McKendree College, who became principal and remained in charge about a year, when Prof. Pinckney again resumed the position.

In 1847, Prof. Pinckney was elected a member of the Constitutional Convention, and, during his absence, left Prof. Fellows in charge of the Seminary.

August 21, 1847, Rev. Carmi C. Olds was elected principal of the Seminary, who continued until March 6, 1850, when he tendered his resignation, and Prof. S. M. Fellows was elected acting principal for the balance of the term. May 7, 1850, Prof. Pinckney, J. J. Beatty and Enoch Wood were appointed a committee to make arrangements in regard to the formation of a new faculty.

June 26, 1850, Prof. D. J. Pinckney was again elected principal; but as he could not take full charge of the Seminary until the commencement of the winter term of 1850-51, on the 29th of July, Prof. S. M. Fellows was appointed acting principal for the fall term of 1850.

The old Seminary building was no longer large enough to accommodate the large number of students who flocked to this institution, which had become the leading literary institution of Northern Illinois, and it was necessary to enlarge it or erect a new one. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees, September 9, 1850, action was taken, and the following resolution adopted:

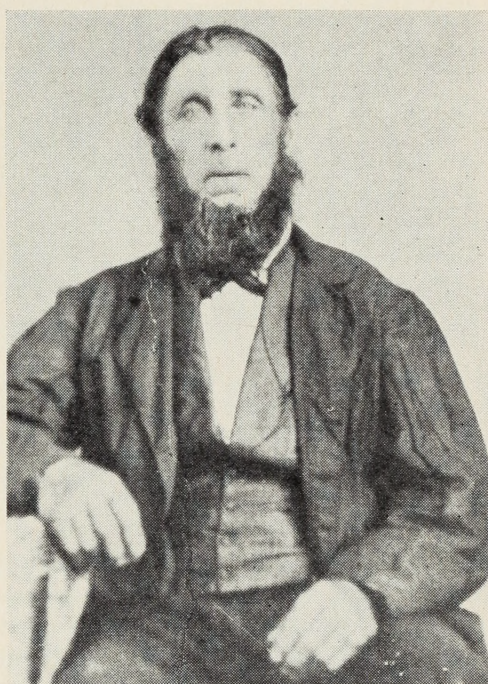
Resolved, that we advertise in the *Mount Morris Gazette* to receive proposals for stone and brick work, and

other materials, for the walls of a new Seminary building, forty by one hundred and twenty feet, four stories high, until the 1st of October, 1850.

Prof. D. J. Pinckney, Enoch Wood and A. C. Marsten were appointed a committee to make a plan of the building.

May 12, 1851, the executive committee was authorized to close a contract with Jacob Myers for the erection of the walls of the new Seminary building, and work was commenced soon afterward.

June 7, 1851, the scholarship system was adopted for the purpose of endowing the Rock River Seminary. The



JACOB M. MYERS was the contractor who built the four-story stone building now known as "Old Sandstone." The building was started in 1853 but was not completed until 1855 because of a lack of funds. Mr. Myers was assisted with the mason work by his brother, Jonathan Myers. Daniel Fager, son-in-law of Jacob Myers, made the "hoist jack" which was used to hoist the stone and mortar for the building. The stone used for the building was quarried at Pine Creek. Mr. Myers came to Ogle County in the spring of 1837 from Boonsboro, Md., with his wife and five children, and settled at West Grove, west of Mount Morris. Besides "Old Sandstone," he also built the original Pine Creek mill in 1845, and the little stone church at West Grove. Mr. Myers was born in Berks County, Pa., April 18, 1799, and died at West Grove, Aug. 26, 1877. His wife, who was Elizabeth Gloss, died April 6, 1877.

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THIS PICTURE of Rock River Seminary was taken about the year 1857, on the occasion of some kind of a celebration, as indicated by the large crowd gathered in front of the buildings. Note the fence which enclosed the campus at that time. The building on the right was the original building erected in 1839, and was torn down many years ago, to make room for a girls' dormitory.

scholarships were to be made perpetual, and sold for \$60. Messrs. Pinckney, Crews and Wood were appointed a committee to draft a plan for issuing them, and make the necessary preparations for doing so.

March 1, 1852, it was ordered that the "Botanical Garden, containing thirteen and a half acres, be surveyed, divided into forty-eight lots, and recorded as an addition to the town of Mount Morris."

December 30, 1852, the trustees resolved to apply to the Legislature for an act of incorporation as a university; appointed Messrs. Pinckney, Fellows and Little to draft a charter, and requested Mr. Pinckney to go to Springfield in the interest of the movement, which he did, and secured the passage of an amendment conferring university privileges upon the institution.

In January, 1853, Mr. Pinckney resigned as principal, and Prof. George L.

Little was elected. He was succeeded by Prof. Spencer S. Matteson, at the commencement of the fall term, who died in November, 1853; and Prof. Pinckney again assumed active control of the school.

The records of the Board of Trustees thus far do not indicate the progress of the new building, but it had been progressing, for on the 28th of June, 1854, it was estimated that \$6,000 would be sufficient to complete it, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that we raise twelve thousand dollars on well secured pledges, to be appropriated to the payment of the debts of the R. R. Seminary, and to the finishing and furnishing of the new building. Provided the said sum of twelve thousand dollars shall be thus pledged and secured by the 20th day of September next."

In June, 1855, Prof. Pinckney resigned, and his active connection with the institution ceased. For more than thirteen years he had devoted his time, energies and money to advance the prosperity and usefulness of Rock River Seminary, and had been its principal most of the time during that period.

During Prof. Pinckney's long and successful administration the Seminary exerted a powerful influence in moulding the destinies of the comparatively unknown Northwest, which will continue to be felt through all coming generations. It is stated he never expelled a student from the institution, and he enjoyed to a remarkable degree the respect, confidence and affection of his pupils, and the esteem of his associates. Although he was no longer connected with the Seminary as its principal, he remained a member of the Board of Trustees until 1858.

Prof. Pinckney was succeeded as principal by Prof. W. T. Harlow, who was elected in June, 1855, and soon after, the school was opened in the new building.

June 25, 1858, an arrangement was made with Profs. Harlow and Pope to take the educational and boarding departments on their own responsibility, employing and paying their assistants, they to return the buildings at the end of the year, in good condition.

June 23, 1859, the executive committee was authorized to "confer and negotiate with any stock company that may be formed, for the purpose of purchasing and running the Seminary as a stock concern." On the same day, the contract with Messrs. Harlow and Pope was renewed for another year.

June 28, 1860, the Board resolved to "let Profs. W. T. Harlow and W. S. Pope have the institution on the same terms for the coming year as they have had it in the past."

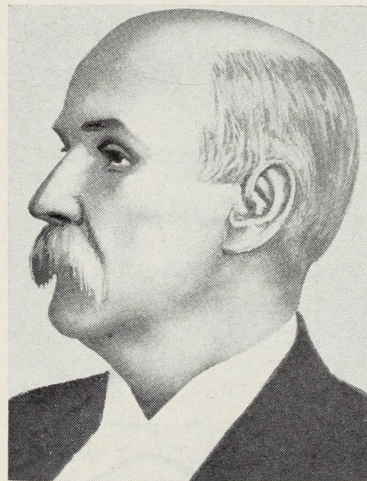
June 28, 1865, Prof. Harlow resigned as principal, and Profs. John Williamson and O. F. Matteson were elected associate principals.

October, 1867, Rev. J. M. Caldwell was elected principal for one year, and he was re-elected in 1868, upon condition that he employ and pay his associates.

June 23, 1869, the entire faculty having resigned, Prof. Brush, of "Upper Iowa University," was elected principal, "he to select his own assistants," but did not accept the position and on the 22nd of July, Rev. R. H. Wilkinson was elected, who served until June, 1870, when he resigned; and on the 28th of September following, a contract was made with Rev. S. H. Adams to "run the Seminary according to the provisions of the charter; and to have all the revenues from the same," until said revenue reaches the sum of \$4,000, with elaborate provisions for the disposition of any surplus that might accrue in excess of that amount. June 21, 1871, John Williamson and Sarah H. Stevenson were requested to assume control of the institution, but it does not appear that they complied. The school was suspended and no further meetings of the Board are recorded until May 7, 1873, when the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the executive committee be authorized to make, in connection with R. R. Hitt, such arrangements with Wm. Harrison or some other person or parties, as will "secure the opening of the school and running the same, without incurring expense or liability to the Trustees."

At this meeting there were present F. G. Petrie, M. T. Ellingwood, H. J.



PROF. JOHN WILLIAMSON, together with Prof. O. F. Matteson, were associate principals of Rock River Seminary from 1865 to 1868, following the regime of Prof. W. T. Harlow.

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