

extend a tax to pay Ballou's new judgment of \$29,000, and a writ of injunction has been issued and served on the County Clerk, restraining him from turning over the tax books till the further order of the court. This means that he must hold the tax books until this tax is extended on the books.

"From the above it will be seen that the affairs of the county are becoming very complicated. And the Board of Supervisors left it with the Judiciary Committee to appoint an agent to go in person and consult as many of the bondholders as could be found, and ascertain upon what basis, if any, a compromise could be effected; and after a few weeks of negotiation, most of the bondholders agreed to meet a committee of the Board of Supervisors, and confer as to the matter. The Board appointed the undersigned for that purpose, and on the 4th inst., that meeting took place at Springfield, Illinois.

"D. T. Littler and J. C. Robinson, who represent about \$177,800 of the bonds in question, were present, and after ascertaining the very lowest figures that would be accepted, the committee agreed to it, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, subject to a vote of the people of the county. These first judgments for accrued interest amounts to about \$19,000.

"The \$19,000 of Supreme Court judgments must be paid in full, as no concession could be obtained as to them. As to the balance of the debt, they agreed to accept refunded six percent. coupon bonds, for the face of the old bonds, which they now hold, payable in twenty years, or all or any part of them after a lapse of five years; the new bonds to bear interest after January 1, 1884. The interest to be payable July 1st of each year, commencing July 1, 1885. This will save to the county nearly \$100,000, and stop the accumulation of costs, the payment of which would otherwise be a large amount.

"The Board has been called together for next Monday, October 15, and will, no doubt, order an election to vote on refunding the bonds upon the above terms."

The action of the Board has the endorsement of the majority of the people, and the opinion of the leading men is that Richland County can afford to pay these bonds for the benefit that has been derived from the railroad. The present title of the company is derived through a purchase of the road. The Pekin, Lincoln and Decatur Railway Company, was organized under a charter granted in 1870, and the road opened from Pekin to Decatur, 67.9 miles in November, 1871, by its original owners. In the following year it was leased to the Toledo, Wabash and Western, by which it was

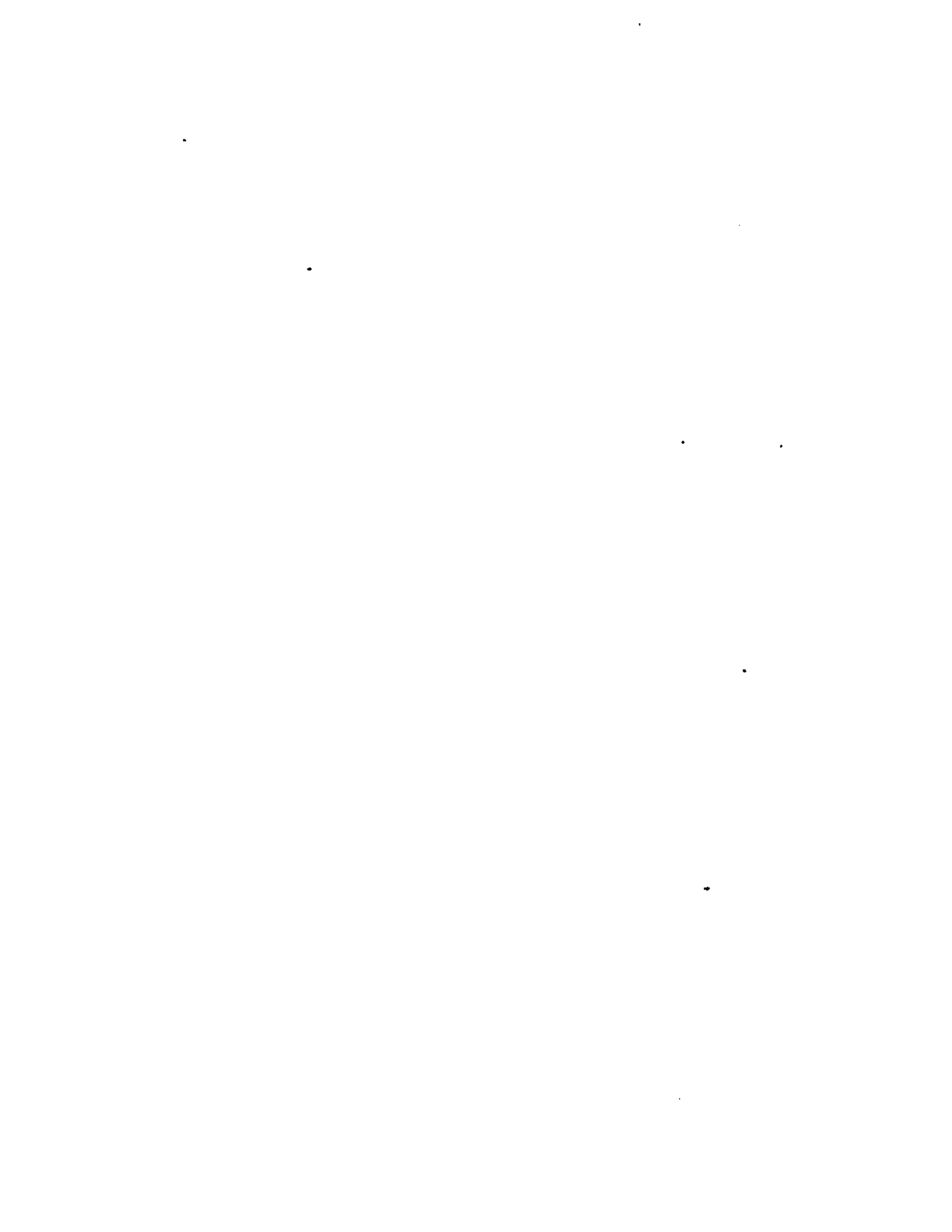
operated until August, 1876, when it was sold under foreclosure sale. The road was subsequently extended from Pekin to Peoria, a distance of 9.2 miles, and opened for traffic, March, 1878. This company then purchased the Decatur, Sullivan and Mattoon, and the Grayville and Mattoon railroads, and in 1880, reorganized with an Indiana organization under the name of Peoria, Decatur and Evansville Railroad. The southern terminus was changed from Mount Vernon to Evansville, and that division pushed to completion in June of the following year. The road from Mattoon to Grayville was in poor condition when sold, and so much poor work had been done, that the line needed and gradually received almost an entire reconstruction.

*Danville, Olney and Ohio River Railroad.*—This road was projected as a narrow gauge railroad, and the company was organized under a charter obtained March 10, 1869. The route proposed for this road, proceeded from the north bank of the Ohio River in Massac County, Ill., “thence northwardly to the city of Chicago, or such place from which an entrance may be effected by construction or connection, and the line of railway to be located on such survey as may come within the range and purview of the charter of the company, about 340 miles.” Work was begun on the northern end of the road and pushed south from Kansas toward Olney. The work met with a good deal of delay. In 1876, there was but eight miles of road from Westfield to Kansas, and in 1878, this section of the road was put in operation. The further construction of the road made slow progress, reaching only some thirteen miles in the following year. In 1881, there was a revival of the work and some fifty-seven miles completed. In the following year the gauge was changed to the standard width, and the road completed to Olney. This road passes through the townships of Preston and Olney, and runs parallel a few yards distant from the P., D. & E. Railroad in this county. At Sidell, in Edgar County, this road reaches and uses the Grape Creek Railroad to Danville, where it forms close connections with the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad. Richland County was hardly in a mood to give much aid to railroads at this time, but the city gave the right of way through the corporation and by private subscription fifteen acres were purchased and given for its use. There is some reason to believe that the road will soon be further extended north and south of the present termini, but there is at present little activity in this direction.

The three railroads now possessed by the county does not so far



*Arch Spring*



satisfy the people as to preclude their taking interest in new railroad enterprises. It is rather the city of Olney which takes the lead in new enterprises of this character, and in a way that involves as limited an outlay of money as possible. At this writing, October, 1883, the projected railroad from Terre Haute to the southwest, is before the public. The termini of this road will be at Terre Haute and either Chester or Grand Tower. It there connects with the Iron Mountain Railroad, which runs through Pilot Knob and Iron Mountain. Terre Haute has a number of foundries, rolling mills, and machine shops; also has access to those valuable Brazil coal fields, situated about thirteen miles from that city. This road, with either Chester or Grand Tower as a southern terminus, will put Terre Haute in direct communication with those immense iron resources of southeastern Missouri, besides traversing one of the finest agricultural regions in southern Illinois. A hasty survey of the route on a map, it appears that by crossing the Wabash River at Darwin, and passing through Oblong and Embarrassville, and there crossing the Embarrass River, that not only would the road avoid crossing a creek, very appropriately named Crooked Creek, many times, but a much better crossing could here be obtained than at any other point, thus making a cheaper and more convenient route than any other line would afford. From this point it would enter the wealthy and prosperous county of Richland, passing through Olney, our beautiful and flourishing county-seat, thence southwest toward the Mississippi River at Grand Tower. Should the city be so fortunate as to secure this road, it would receive a fresh impetus, be greatly benefited, and its future as a railroad center assured. As this road can hope for no voted subsidies under the present law, its demands must be limited to, and, if met at all, met by private subscription.

A short time since the Vice President of the Terre Haute & Southwestern Railway Company addressed a letter to Judge F. D. Preston stating that there would be a meeting held by the Board of Directors at Newton, on the 17th inst., at which time the location of the Southern Division of that road would be determined. A cordial invitation was extended to citizens to be present and to express their wishes and advocate the interests of Richland County. In response to this invitation a delegation of citizens, consisting of Mayor David Scott, Hon. E. S. Wilson, S. D. Burns, John Wolfe, Hon. Dr. E. Rowland, Hon. Henry Studer, F. T. Phillips, J. M. Wilson, city attorney; James I. Richey, ex-sheriff; F. P. Gillespie, county treas-

urer; G. D. Slanker, ex-mayor, T. A. Fritchey, and Hon. Aaron Shaw, member of Congress, went to Newton to attend this meeting, fortified by the following petition, which was signed by nearly a hundred prominent business men and tax payers of the city:

“THAT WHEREAS, there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Terre Haute and Southwestern Railway Company held at Newton, Illinois, on the 17th day of October, A. D., 1883, at which meeting the question of the location of the Southern Division will be settled. And whereas, the Vice-President of said T. H. & S. W. R. R. Company have extended an invitation to the citizens of Olney to be present, and give expression as to whether they are interested in this enterprise, and are desirous of securing the location of the road through Olney. We, therefore, the undersigned citizens, taxpayers, and business men, of the city of Olney, Illinois, authorize and instruct those representing us at said meeting to express our feelings of interest in the proposed project, and to encourage and use all reasonable means to secure the building of said railroad through the city of Olney.”

*Press and Politics.*—The educating influence of the newspaper was not added until 1849. There was very little call for one, before or even then, so far as the business demand was concerned, but it is the mission of the journalist to create a demand where none exists, and it was in the fulfillment of this part of the mission that the first newspaper was brought to Olney. Politics, while, perhaps, a less important element in society than now, was still one that forced itself upon the consideration of the adventuring newspaper man, and it is significant of the character of the community that this pioneer journal was an “Independent” paper. The early political sentiment in Richland, was not as unanimous as in many sections of southern Illinois. With the Southern Whig and Democratic elements which came from the Southern States, came also an element of Whigs from the Eastern States, and the early sentiment was probably pretty well balanced. After the introduction of the newspaper, however, it was not long before it took a strong Democratic tone, and became bitterly partisan. About 1852, the question of securing a railroad seemed to absorb all the interests, and politics was in a dormant state until about the presidential campaign of 1853. The Republican party had been making its way here, though some of its strength came from unexpected quarters. A paper was started to represent its principles and the war of words grew bitter between the rival organs. In the Senatorial campaign, 1858, the Republican paper found a new

competitor in the field, in behalf of the Democratic principles, and the old war of words was revived. The events of 1860 wrought some marvelous changes. Earnest Whigs became bitterly opposed to the administration in power, while prominent Democrats became earnest supporters of the war measures. During the war, however, the "Union" sentiment was in the ascendancy, though political lines were strictly maintained and the Democratic party was successful in the election of county officials. Notwithstanding all this, the opposition has gradually gained strength so that at this period, and up to the present, popular men of Republican politics have been repeatedly elected to various offices. Regularly, however, the county of Richland is considered as Democratic by a small majority.

#### THE PRESS.

The first newspaper was established here in 1849, by Daniel Cox. This was called the *Olney News*, and was edited by Judge Kitchell. Though nominally an Independent paper, the editor was always in sympathy with the Democratic party, and the paper from the first had a tendency in that way. In the following year, John M. Wilson became part owner, the name of the paper changed to the *Olney Republican*, and its support given boldly to the Democratic principles in politics. Soon after, Mr. Wilson became sole proprietor, and continued it until about 1852, when he removed the office and material to Salem; its publication was continued under the name of *Salem Gazette*. Disappointed in his expectation of seeing the two great lines, the Ohio & Mississippi and the Illinois Central cross in that town, he sold his paper and returned to Olney. In the meantime, John Buntin had brought a paper here from Lawrenceville, and published it as the *Olney Banner*, in the interest of the Whigs. This was but a few weeks after the removal of the *Republican*. Mr. Wilson returned about 1852 or 1853, revived the name of the *Republican*, and in a short time bought the *Banner*. The consolidated papers were then published for several years as a Democratic organ. This was the only paper in the county until the spring of 1856, when William M. Beck established the *Olney Journal*. This was in the beginning of the Buchanan campaign, and the *Journal* represented the Republican principles. Mr. Beck subsequently purchased the *Republican* of Mr. Wilson, and thus combined, his paper represented all the journalistic ventures in the county. Until 1858 this was the only paper in the county. At the death of Mr. Beck, his son, James, assumed control in company with Dr. Eli

Bowyer. A number of changes occurred in the business management of this paper, until in 1872 it was sold to H. H. Lusk, and the name changed to *Olney Ledger*. Under this *regime* the paper assumed the proportions of a large sized quarto, and continued three or four years when I. A. Powell bought it, changed the name to *Olney News*, and in 1881, sold it to the firm of T. A. Fritchey & Co. This change brought the name back to the *Olney Republican*, the second step in the round of old names. This *Olney Republican* is thus the legitimate successor of the original paper published in Richland County. It is an eight-column folio, with co-operative inside pages, and is a lively Republican paper with a constituency that numbers more than one-half of the newspaper subscribers in the county. In August, 1858, James Wright established the *Olney Weekly Press*, and supported the principles of the Democratic party. He conducted the paper until June 1, 1860, when he sold it to R. F. Steiger and J. H. Graham. The paper soon passed into the hands of W. D. Mumford who added a part of the material of a confiscated office in Arkansas. In 1864, the office was broken up by a mob of soldiers, whose enmity the paper had gained by some radical language, when its publication was discontinued. Soon after, F. C. Carel began the publication of the *Olney Democrat*, which was sold to E. B. Barnard, and the name changed to the *Olney Weekly Times*. The *Times*, on the death of Barnard, was sold by his executors to W. F. Beck, in April, 1882, and is still published under the same title by Mr. Beck. This paper is the organ of the dominant party in politics. There are but these two papers in the county, and political interests are so divided that each has a good, living patronage, and can do itself and the public justice.

#### THE SCHOOLS.

The first school taught in Richland County was taught in an old log building erected for a tavern, on the old "trace road," two miles west of Olney, in what is now Olney Township, in 1822 and 1823, by John I. Chauncey. The schoolroom was partitioned off from one end of the tavern, and was furnished with slab seats, and board desks. Uncle Elijah Nelson attended that school for four days. This first teacher of Richland County, John I. Chauncey, died at the home of Elijah Nelson, in the spring of 1824; his was the first death within the limits of what is now Olney Township. After his death the question arose as to what they should do for a casket; at that time there were no saw-mills in the country. John Evins



had just erected a cabin in what is now Noble Township, of Richland County, in which he had laid a very nice puncheon floor. It was proposed to take some puncheons out of the floor of this cabin with which to construct the coffin. The suggestion was acted upon, and John Evins, John Jeffries, John Mathews, John Nelson, and Elijah Nelson constructed the coffin. Thus, in a rude casket made of slabs, was one of the first teachers of Richland County, Ill., consigned to his last home. In 1841, there were four schools held in the county—one at Fairview, one in the Baptist Church near old Claremont, one in the Richard Philips neighborhood, four miles north of Olney, and the other at the Morehouse Schoolhouse, two miles east of Olney. These were all subscription schools, the State fund being so meagre that the people refused to organize under the school law. On the platting of Olney, Mrs. Powers became a resident of the village and opened her house for the purpose of teaching school. It would be difficult in any case to trace the growth of the common schools from this small beginning to the present advancement. In 1866, Judge Kitchell having donated the ground, a public school building was erected in Olney, and occupied the following year. This structure is an object of pride to every citizen and is well worthy of their admiration. It originally contained twelve rooms, and with the furniture cost over \$33,000. It has since been enlarged by the addition of two rooms, and the number of children to be accommodated is rapidly outgrowing its capacity. The average of the county schools is not of the highest. The county has been unfortunate in some of its County Superintendents, and the policy of the Board of Supervisors has never been of the most progressive character. No time is allowed for visiting schools, but when it becomes necessary to adjudicate some difficulty, then the Superintendent is allowed for this extra service. There are no reports preserved in the office, save for 1883, which renders it impossible to compile the statistics setting forth the development of the school interests. For the last school year the report places the number of persons of school age in the county, at 5,455; the whole number enrolled, 4,574; the number of graded schools are four, one each at Olney, Noble, Claremont, and Parkersburg; there are in addition, seventy-eight ungraded schools. Of the eighty-two schoolhouses in use, five are brick, seventy-five are frame, and two are log structures. Four districts have libraries valued at an aggregate value of \$483. The total value of school property in the county is \$84,935; the Olney property alone being estimated at \$40,000. The entire apparatus of the

county is put down at \$1,559. The average monthly wages of male teachers is \$35.95; of female teachers, \$24.49. The amount of district tax to support schools is \$21,306.50; \$6,400 of this being raised in Olney. There is a bonded school debt of \$4,162. The total receipts for the year were \$47,683.79; total expenditures, \$33,025.54, of which \$21,975.34 was paid to teachers.

#### THE CHURCHES.

It is characteristic of the settlement of Richland County that the church influences early made their way here. The earliest denomination was the Baptist, of what is popularly termed the "Hard-shell" variety. They built the first place of worship in the county, as early as 1822. This was a log structure called "Antioch" and situated five miles east of Olney on the "trace road." This served for school purposes as well as a place for worship and attracted the devout for miles about on preaching days. William Martin, of Kentucky, was the preacher usually in attendance here. The second church building was erected soon after the first by the same denomination. Its site was on the Fox Prairie, two miles southwest of the present village of Fransonia. This was known as the "Union" Church and was served by a Rev. Mr. Roberts. A few years later, "Shiloh" Church was erected five miles west of Olney on Andrew Evans' property on the "trace road." This was a log structure and was built by the Baptists, Champion Maden being the earliest minister here. During the early history of the church influence, the Baptists were the largely predominating denomination, and some of the leading early preachers were frequently here. Among these may be noted such men as Richard M. Newport, Richard Gardner, Benjamin Coates, Joel Humes, Jerry Holcombe, and Charles Whiting. The Methodists were but little later in the field. The first church edifice of this denomination was not erected until 1842, but their itinerants were found throughout the county much earlier. Among them was the famous Lorenzo Dow, who was here in 1820, and again in 1830. He was remarkable for the force and rude eloquence of his sermons and the eccentricity of his manners. Elijah Nelson relates an incident of his preaching at "Antioch" Church, September 2, 1830. A large number had gathered to hear him. Arriving at the spot, he gravely went to the door of the building, and giving several distinct raps, repeated in a solemn tone the passage of Scripture: "Behold, I stand at the door

and knock, if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Seating himself a moment after in the door, he began an affecting and powerful discourse from the text: "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated." The Christian Church, then known popularly as "New Lights," were somewhat numerous, though at an early date there were no houses of worship erected by this sect nearer than Spring Hill, in Lawrence County.

The first house of worship built by the Methodist Episcopal Church was the log structure in Olney, used for awhile in a triple capacity—as schoolhouse, court house, and place of worship. The first society was organized in November, 1841, by William Cummins, of Mount Carmel circuit, Illinois Conference. The persons composing this primitive church were: W. H. Reed and wife, B. S. Thrapp and wife, Mrs. E. Jay, and J. Notestine. Judge R. B. Marney and wife joined soon after the organization. Of these original members, only Mr. Notestine survives. The society has been prosperous, and now occupies a fine brick structure erected in 1854 and 1855, at a cost of \$2,800. This denomination is the most numerous in the county, having some sixteen places of worship, and several appointments not provided with church edifices. At Olney, there are representative churches of ten denominations, nine beside the Methodist, all of which have sister churches in the country about. These are the Baptist, Moravian, Lutheran, Congregational; Presbyterian, German Evangelical, Roman Catholic, German Reformed, and Christian. The first does not have the large numbers in the county that it once had, but it is represented by several organizations. The same is true of the present status of the Moravians, Lutheran, and German Evangelical churches. The Congregational and Presbyterian churches were originally together, but divided on doctrinal questions. They represent the greater strength of their respective denominations in the county. The Catholic Church has a sister organization on Grand Prairie, where a church edifice was built in 1844. The Christian denomination, though latest represented in the county-seat, has a growing strength in the county, and is represented by several vigorous congregations. In the county-seat of the ten organizations, but one has a regular pastor and services, at the present writing. With several, this is accidental, but too many seem to have effected an organization without counting the cost.

The German population gave rise to a number of church organizations peculiar to this nationality. Of these the earliest was the

Evangelical Association, for a sketch of which this volume is indebted to the kindness of Rev. Schlencher, as follows:

*Evangelical Association.*—In the year of 1842, this part of the country was for the first time visited by a preacher of the Evangelical Association, in the person of Christoph Augenstein, sent by the Ohio Conference. He preached in the houses, but the outlook was not very encouraging. In the year 1843, the Illinois Conference took up a mission, embracing the counties of Wabash, Clark, Owen and Richland. Christ Lindner and Nickolai were sent as missionaries. This year Mr. Henry Zwahlen was converted and joined the church. In 1844, A. Nickolai and G. G. Platz were sent by the Conference, and their effort was crowned with success. In 1845, the above Mission was divided in Dubois and Mount Carmel. Philip Prech, was sent to Mount Carmel, to which Richland County belongs, where he had good success on the Grand Prairie, six miles north of Olney; a few families were converted who organized themselves into a class and chose H. Zwahlen as their class-leader. The names of the original members were: H. Zwahlen and wife, P. P. Bauer, George Yelch and wife, W. Ameter and wife, Fred. Launer, A. Bushany, G. P. Zimmerly and wife, J. Staely. In 1846, G. Mueller and J. Trometer were sent pastors to work on the Mission. In 1847, 1848, 1849 and 1850, Christ Glaus, Samuel Dickover and H. Ragaty were the missionaries sent by the Conference, during these years, in which the membership was steadily growing.

In the year 1850, the first church was built, six miles northeast of Olney, and called the Grand Prairie Church. In 1853, the Indiana Conference was organized, which Conference took Grand Prairie up as a Mission, and sent Rev. P. Burgner as missionary. This year there was another class organized in the town of Olney, with P. P. Bauer as its leader. There was also a church built in the town of Olney, 32x45—cost \$700. From 1854 to 1873, the Revs. B. Ruh, Joseph Fisher, J. Fuchs, J. M. Kronmueller, Charles Wessling, C. C. Kohlmeier, W. Wesseler, G. Shmall, H. L. Fisher, Job Berger, Christ Glaus, J. M. Kronmueller and J. Kaufman, were pastors. Rev. J. Kaufman being three years on the Mission, and in his three years Olney was made a Station. In 1873–75, Rev. C. Tramer was sent by the Conference to Olney Station, and labored with good success; 1875–78, W. G. Braeckly was sent by the Conference to Olney Station, who also worked with good success, and under his charge the new church was built—a fine brick building—45x75—cost \$9,000; 1878–79, Rev. M. Speck, was sent on the

Station; 1879-81, Rev. J. C. Young was pastor in charge of the Olney Station; 1881-84, Rev. H. Schlencher was sent by the Conference. The present membership numbers 190. The Grand Prairie class is still served from the pastor of the Olney Station and the local preacher; its membership being twenty-five. Olney Station has a Sunday-school scholarship enrolled of about 200 scholars.

*Church of Christ.*—There are ten congregations of this denomination in Richland County. Two are in Madison Township, at Parkersburg and Fairview, each of which has a membership of about seventy-five persons. In Decker Township there are congregations at Fransonia and Green Hill, with a membership of about fifty each. In Noble Township there is one, at "Brushville," with a membership of about 100 members under the pastoral charge of Rev. H. M. Sanderson. In Denver Township there are two, with a membership of about 100. There is also one in German Township, "Prairie Hall," which has a membership of upwards of 100; one in Claremont Township, "Eureka," with 110 members, and one in Bonpas Township, "Shiloh," having a membership of 100, under the pastoral charge of Rev. F. M. Sheik. The church at Olney was organized in the year 1867, by W. B. F. Treat, with thirty members. The congregation met in the court house as they had no place of worship of their own, until about 1874, when they secured a hall. In 1878, the church purchased a small frame building and fitted it up at a total cost of about \$1,200. The pastors succeeding Mr. Treat have been Revs. Erastus Lathrop, G. W. Morrell, J. F. James, and John Mavity. The church has been without a regular pastor occasionally, and has enjoyed the services of a large number of ministers who were not regularly employed. The membership now reaches to the number of 125 persons. Of the other churches no reliable data can be given. The Baptist denomination number some seven or eight congregations in the county, and the Moravian, two organizations.

*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church.*—As far as is known, Rev. Seacrist was the first Lutheran minister who preached the gospel to the scattered Lutherans in Richland County, Ill. Rev. Daniel Scherer succeeded Rev. Seacrist, and labored faithfully among the people, preaching the gospel and administering the sacraments, his field, however, being so large, he called his son Jacob from Gettysburg to his assistance. He preached several years in the log church, in the Schlichenmyer neighborhood, and various other places. Rev. C. Kuhl succeeded the Scherers, and organized the Saint

Paul's in 1851-52, two miles southwest of Olney; he labored but a few years, and was succeeded by Rev. Hunderdasse, who remained but six months or a year. Rev. Swaney was the next Lutheran minister who supplied the Saint Paul's with the preaching of the gospel for a year or two. Rev. George H. Schnur became his successor in 1861-62, and continued pastor for several years, when he resigned. The congregation next invited Rev. J. M. Hurkey, from Mount Carmel, to preach for them as a supply until they could obtain a regular pastor. In the month of October, 1869, in obedience to a regular call, Rev. J. M. Hurkey became the pastor of the church, and remained so until the fall of 1874. During the pastorship of J. M. Hurkey, the Saint Paul's resolved to change the place of worship from Schlichenmyer Schoolhouse, to the city of Olney. On the 23d day of September, 1873, the Saint Paul's laid the corner-stone of their house of worship, according to the ceremonies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The building is a brick 36x65 in size, and was erected at a cost of \$4,500.

Rev. J. M. Long, succeeded Rev. J. M. Hurkey, in the spring of 1875; Rev. J. P. Schnur, succeeded Rev. J. M. Long in the fall of 1876; Rev. E. A. Best, succeeded Rev. J. P. Schnur in the spring of 1878; Rev. E. Schwartz, present pastor, succeeded Rev. E. A. Best in the spring of 1883.

The original membership was as follows:

Males.—John Schlichenmyer, Jacob F. Schlichenmyer, Christian Schlichenmyer, George Steffy, William Schaffer, Philip Steffy, Fredrick E. Schonart, Lorenzo Krippner, Franklin Krippner, Henry Steffy, Jacob Schlichenmyer, Daniel Schlichenmyer, Daniel Kaltreider, Gottlieb Heintzelmann, Henry Krippner, John Sager, George Kaltreider.

Females.—Sarah Schlichenmyer, Catharine Schlichenmyer, Mary Schlichenmyer, Eveline Steffy, Susanna Kaltreider, Sarah Steffy, Catharine Mempel, Fredrica Schonart, Elizabeth Krippner, Lydia Kaltreider, Catharine Heintzelmann, Esther A. Sager, Catharine Schaffer. The present membership is seventy.

*Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Preston.*—The Rev. G. H. Schnur had been preaching for some time in the neighborhood of the present Saint Paul's Church, but without any organization. In the spring of 1869, Rev. J. M. Single accepted a call from the Claremont Pastorate and commenced preaching at this point. On October 30, 1869, he organized the Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, with the following eleven mem-

bers, viz.: John Zirkel, Levi Kesler, G. W. Dozer, Socrates Dozer, Henry Stang, Nancy Zirkel, Mary Kesler, Eliza A. Dozer, George Stang, Elizabeth Stang and Catharine Stang. The Rev. J. M. Single was succeeded by Rev. W. Friday, who served the congregation from February, 1871, to April, 1872. Rev. W. Friday was succeeded by Rev. A. Leathers, who took charge of the congregation in the fall of 1873. The next minister in charge of this church was Rev. J. P. Schnur. He commenced his services on the 10th of December, 1876. Rev. J. P. Schnur was succeeded by Rev. E. A. Best, who took charge of this congregation, in connection with Olney, in the spring of 1878, and served them until the spring of 1883, when Rev. E. Schwartz, the present pastor, took charge of the congregation. The present membership of the congregation is fifty-four. The first officers of the church were Levi Kesler, elder, and George W. Dozer, deacon. They were also the first trustees. A Sunday-school, not very large, but in good running order, is kept up during the whole year. The church house in which the congregation worships is a frame building, and was erected in the year 1871, and cost about \$1,100.

*Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church.*—This church was organized in 1843, by Rev. Sechrist as pastor. The first edifice was erected in the same year in what is now Olney Township. There were forty-one original members. The second edifice was erected in 1862, in Claremont Township, and the name changed to Saint James Evangelical Lutheran Church. It now has 149 members. The following have been pastors: Revs. D. Scherer, J. Scherer, C. Kuhl, C. Hunderdasse, D. D. Swuney, G. H. Schnur, J. M. Hurkey, C. L. Luner, and J. Hursh, present incumbent.

*German Reformed Church.*—The German Reformed Church at Olney was established and erected by a few families, about ten in number, and mostly all of Swiss emigration. At a meeting on the 24th of June, 1860, the congregation organized itself, and the following members were elected as trustees to manage and facilitate the building of the present church: John Von Gunten, Christian Bohren, J. J. Feutz, John Schilt and Jacob Miller. Operations were immediately commenced by the said trustees; the building site—about one acre of ground, worth \$300—was deeded by Mr. T. W. Lilley, gratis, and the church was erected during the same year, 1860, at a cost of \$2,000. A few years after, a fine bell, the best in Olney, was put in the cupola at a cost of \$325. In 1874, the parsonage, near the church, was built by the congregation at a cost of

\$1,200; the best parsonage in Olney. The first pastor was Rev. G. F. Launer, an ordained theologian from Switzerland. In 1874, the congregation, through the management of its pastor, Rev. Fr. Judt, an old graduate of Basel, Switzerland, associated itself with the German Reformed Synod of America. The present membership amounts to about sixty, and its present pastor is Rev. Eichen.

*The German Reformed Church at Grand Prairie.*—This church was established by about twenty families, mostly all of Swiss emigration. In the same settlement there were living a number of families known as Lutherans, and the two branches, Reformed and Lutherans, were supporting together one church and one pastor in common, for a number of years, but matters did not work all right together; the Lutherans being too orthodox for the liberal minded Reformed, and they separated. At a meeting then held by the Reformed members on the 5th day of February, 1852, a resolution was unanimously adopted to establish and form a church of their own. A few of the prominent members then, such as Peter Ingzi, Christian Ingzi, Christian Sterchi, Henry Sterchi, John Jacob Hauck, Philip J. Zimmerle and others, now all dead, took the matter in hand purchased a tract of land of twenty-four and a half acres for a building site, and the present church was then erected at a cost of \$800. In 1876 or 1877, a very handsome parsonage was also erected near the church; the first pastor, Rev. G. F. Launer, a theological graduate of Berne, Switzerland. In 1874, the congregation associated itself with the German Reformed Synod of America, through the management of Rev. Fr. Judt, a graduate of the Basel Missionary Society, Switzerland, of many years ago. The present membership is large, amounting to about 100, and its pastor is Rev. Kiper.

*Olney Presbyterian Church.*—This church was organized January 8, 1858, by a committee of the Palestine Presbytery, with these members: Mrs. Mary Knight, Mrs. Elizabeth Darling, Mrs. Mary McClure, Mrs. Milla Burrell, Mrs. Rebecca A. Wilson, Mrs. Harriet N. Crozier, John Boyd, James Crozier, Mrs. Jane Wilson, John Henderson, Mrs. Jane Henderson, Miss Mary A. Henderson. Elders of the church, since chosen: George W. Cone, D. Marquis, David Smith, John L. Campbell, James W. Beck, Horace Hayward, William H. Wallace, L. M. Parker, E. Bowyer, J. C. Allen, J. H. Morgan, John Horner, J. P. Wilson. Ministers, since the organization: John Crozier, H. E. Thomas, A. H. Sloat, Solomon Cook, R. J. L. Mathews, John Stuart.

The church building is a neat frame structure, erected in 1860,



at a cost of about \$3,000. A parsonage was built in 1864, at a cost of about \$1,500. The church and parsonage are on the same lot. The church is out of debt and has a membership of a little over one hundred. In the history of this church the Rev. John Crozier is entitled to special mention, as he was really the founder of the church and has done more since to build up its interests than any other one man. On account of the health of his family he has recently removed to Minnesota.

*First Congregational Church.*—This church was organized in June, 1873, by Rev. Robert West, of Alton, Ill., with a membership of twenty-six persons. The first pastor was Rev. Edward Anderson, of Boston, Mass. The first officials of the church were G. W. Fritchey and Prof. David Edmiston, deacons; Horace Howard, president, Andrew Darling, J. M. Wilson, Gary Gaddis (Robert Byers, secretary), trustees; Mrs. M. V. Byers, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah Edmiston, clerk; David Edmiston, Sunday-school superintendent. The present church edifice, a handsome structure in the Gothic style and one of the finest in the city or county, was erected in 1875, at a cost of \$8,000. The church has a membership of about sixty persons and is in a flourishing condition. The pastor is the Rev. D. C. McNair.

*Roman Catholic Church.*—The Catholic Church is represented in Richland County by two congregations, one at Stringtown, German Township, and the other at Olney. The first, as noted above, was organized in 1844 as an off-shoot of the church in Saint Marie, in Jasper County. It is served by the officiating priest at Olney, and is in a vigorous condition. A Catholic school was organized and a building for this purpose erected in 1879, at a cost of about \$300. The membership is composed entirely of Germans, and numbers about fifty families.

*Saint Joseph's Catholic Church of Olney.*—This church was organized about 1855. Before the erection of their present place of worship, in 1859 or 1860, mass was celebrated at the house of Mr. McDonnell. The Redemptionist Fathers have a mission here, and a school. The membership numbers about forty-five families.

#### SECRET ORGANIZATIONS.

*The Masons.*—The Masonic Fraternity is the most important of these societies in Richland County, and is represented by Olney Lodge, No. 140, Noble Lodge, No. 362, Parkersburg Lodge, No. 509, F. & A. M., Richland Chapter, No. 38, R. A. M.; Olney Council, No. 55, R. & S. M., and Gorin Commandery, No. 14, K. T. The fol-

lowing sketch of this society is from the pen of G. H. B. Tolle, K. T., thirty-two degrees, S. P. R. S.: As in almost all other energetic and progressing communities so has in Richland County the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons taken a strong foothold, and has, in the most unmistakable manner, made her beneficiary influence felt. She has taken into her folds not only men from all spheres of life but especially have the most prominent and influential men of the county been closely identified with the institution, and, like the "Father of our Country," prided themselves in being one of the mystic tie, thus gladly assisting in the faithful but unostentatious discharge of the self imposed duties of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, the happy and lasting effects of which, upon the society, the scrutinizing eye of the close observer of social and private life can not fail to discern nor deny.

On the 24th day of August, 1853, Messrs. E. B. Page, H. Clark, T. M. Hinman, F. D. Preston, S. M. Hinman, Joseph Yocom, William Combs and Samuel McClure assembled as Masons, and after due deliberation concluded to and did petition E. B. Ames, Esq., Grand Master of Masons, of Illinois, for a dispensation to form and open in Olney a regular Lodge of Masons, which prayer was promptly granted, and on September 10, 1853, Olney Lodge, U. D. (under dispensation), A. F. & A. M., held its first regular meeting, with E. B. Page as the first Worshipful Master, and F. D. Preston as the first Secretary. Many Masons, especially from Hutsonville, Ill., where the nearest lodge was then located, prominent among whom was the late Hon. Jesse K. Dubois, well known as one of the foremost men of the State, actively participated in the exercises. Mr. John H. Gunn, the well known dry goods merchant of Olney, had the honor of being the first to receive Masonic light, in the young Lodge. At the session of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Illinois, I. S. Anderson, Grand Master, held October 2, 1854, Olney Lodge, U. D., as a reward for well conducted and faithfully performed work, was duly chartered as Olney Lodge, No. 140, A. F. & A. M., with E. B. Page as Worthy Master; and ever since, Olney Lodge has enjoyed not only a happy existence but also the honor of ranking to-day among the best working lodges in the State. On February 14, 1854, for the first time, the Masons of Olney were called upon to perform the solemn rites of burial over the remains of a departed brother. Mr. John McCollough, the father of Mrs. E. J. Hayward and Mr. John L. McCollough, of Olney, a member of Venus Lodge, No. 8, located at Mansfield, Ohio, had died

at his residence in the city of Olney. Heavy, indeed, has the hand of death rested upon the members of the order, and often can one see the mourners go about the streets. Only two of the charter members remain among the living—Judge T. D. Preston and Dr. Samuel McClure. Yet notwithstanding the ranks are rapidly closing our young men take the place of the fallen heroes. Numbered among the many who now inhabit the silent city of the dead are Judge Horace Hayward, of whom it may be justly said that he was by far the best posted and most influential Mason in this section of the State. The loss which the craft in Olney has sustained in his death is almost irreparable. The Rev. S. A. Blair, William Cliffe and G. W. Eaton, Col. M. O’Kean, Maj. J. S. Campbell, for many years postmaster in Olney, Jacob Hoffman, E. B. Page, J. P. Cullen, W. H. Cobbs and Father John Knight, who served for over twenty years faithfully as Tyler of Olney Lodge, No. 140, are, with many others, resting from their labors here on earth.

But, notwithstanding these heavy losses, the craft grows stronger, and on October 3, 1857, Richland Chapter, No. 38, R. A. M., was duly chartered by E. M. Clark, M. E. G. H. Priest of Illinois, and this move was followed by the charter of Olney Commandery, No. 14, K. T., dated October 4, 1865, and issued by N. F. Prentice, then Grand Commander of Illinois. The Commandery subsequently changed her name to Gorin Commandery, No. 14, K. T., in honor of the Hon. Jerome R. Gorin, Past Grand Commander, a most prominent citizen and Mason of this State and especially of the city of Decatur, where he still resides.

In order still better to supply the wants of the rapidly growing fraternity in Richland County, Maysville Lodge, No. 362, located at Ingraham, Clay County (chartered October 29, 1861), was moved to the town of Noble, on October 5, 1864, continued its labors under the name of Noble Lodge 362, and under the able management of the late Henry Palmer, for many years its Worshipful Master, it attained to the well merited place in the craft and which it continues to occupy under the rule of David Anderson, Esq., its present Master, who also holds the responsible position of Supervisor of the county. All this, however, was not yet sufficient to accommodate the members, especially in the south and southwest part of the county. Grand Master Gorin granted on June 30, 1866, a charter to Messrs. George Mason, M. L. Howe, J. B. Jolly, and others, to form and open Parkersburg Lodge, No. 509, at Parkersburg, Ill. This Lodge, as its sisters at Olney and Noble, is in a very prosperous

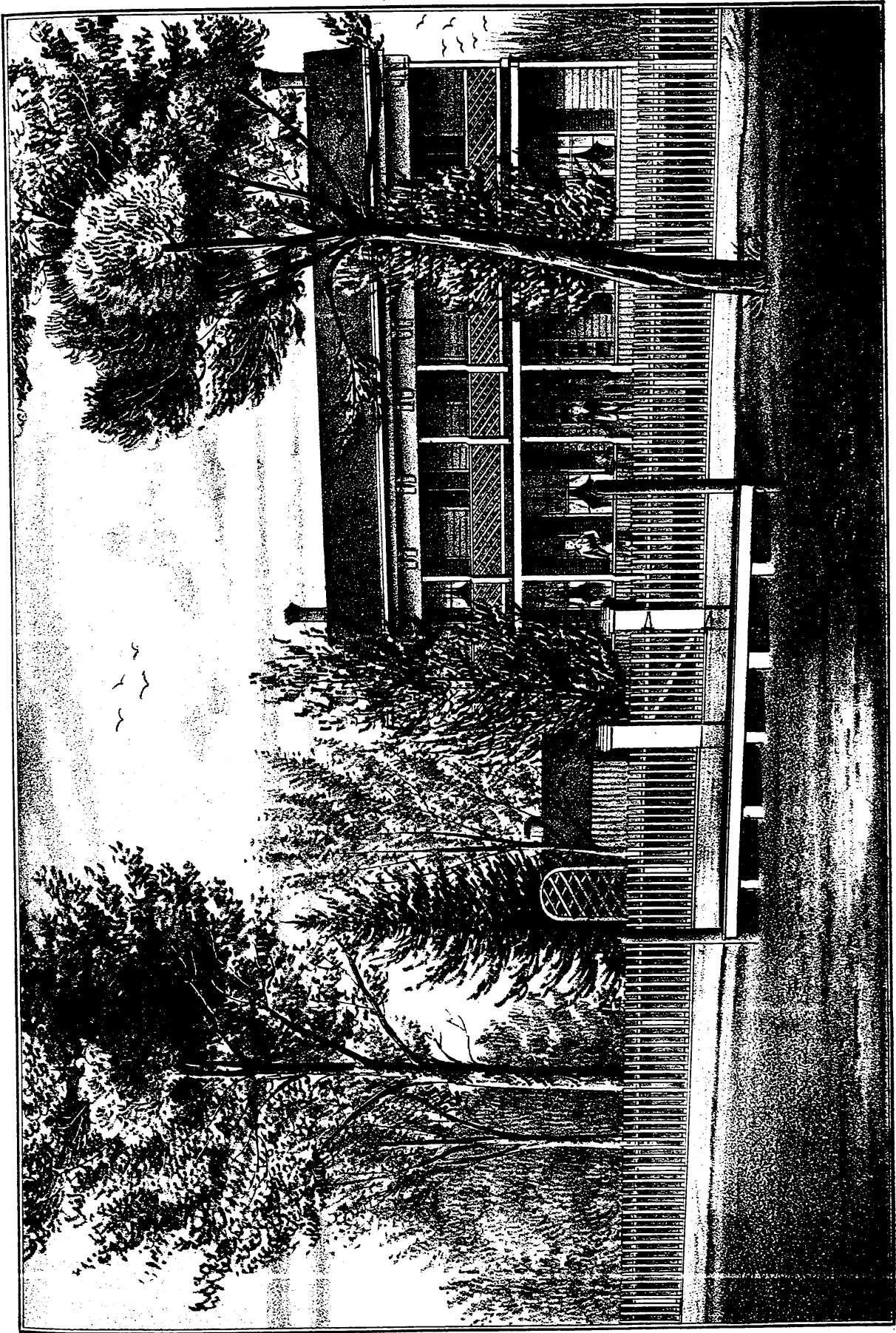
condition; and in order to have the American rite of Freemasonry fully represented in the county, a council of Royal and Selected Masters was organized at Olney and a charter granted to Thomas R. Austin, D. D., and others, by W. H. Levanway, M. P. G. M., on October 23, 1872, thereby giving Olney a full representation of all the different bodies constituting the American rite of Freemasonry. (The members being strongly imbued with the principles of mutual relief, are also largely interested in Masonic Mutual Insurance, represented by the Illinois Masons' Benevolent Society, of Princeton, Ill., and especially by the Masonic Benevolent Association of Central Illinois, of Mattoon, with G. H. B. Tolle, Esq., of Olney, as their special agent for Southern Illinois and Indiana).

Special mention deserves the splendid and substantial building which the Masons of Olney have selected for their home, and while it is surpassed by many others as regards the elegance and expense of its furniture, yet it is second to none of those it has been the good fortune of the writer to visit, as regards adaptation to the work, and especially as regards ventilation.

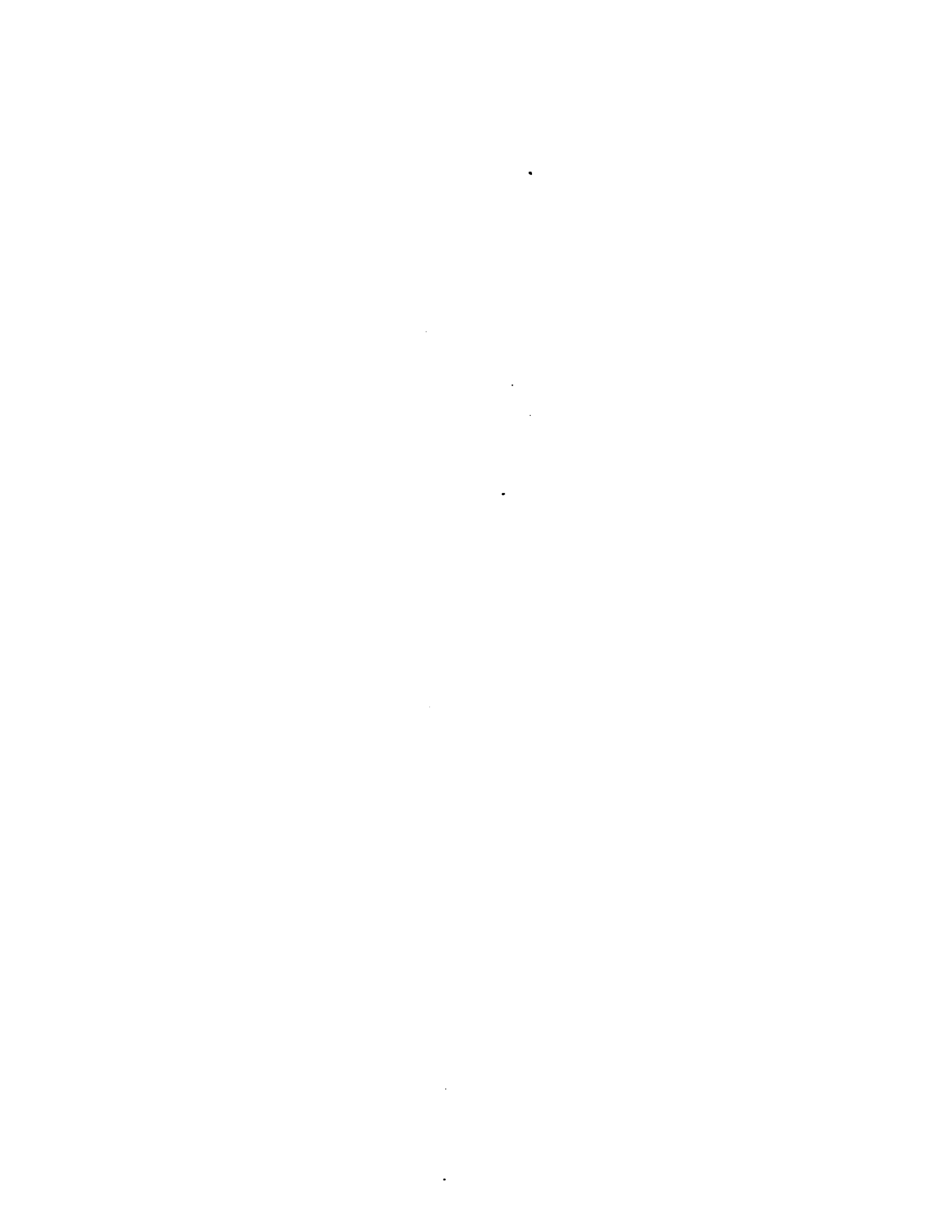
The building, owned by Messrs. Frank Powers and Charles Schulz, is situated on the corner of Main and Fair streets.

On the first floor are two storerooms with a sixteen feet ceiling. The second floor is used as a public hall, finely finished, well ventilated, has an eighteen feet ceiling, and will seat 550 persons comfortably. Access to the second and third stories is gained at the middle of the west side of the building by a stairway, the steps of which are seven feet wide. The third story has been leased by the Gorin Commandery, No. 14, K. T., for a term of twenty years; sub-let to Olney Council, No. 55, Richland Chapter, No. 38, and Olney Lodge, No. 140, and is divided into such rooms and apartments as are needed for a full exemplification of all the degrees conferred by the above named bodies.

The lodge-room proper is 40x40, the banquet hall 30x25, the hall of the west 25x16, the parlor 15x15; the remaining rooms are of proportionate size, and all ceilings are fifteen feet high. The body of the building is of brick; the front of the first story is of iron, with four magnificent windows twelve feet high. The second and third stories are of pressed brick with galvanized iron window caps and cornices. The height of the building from the ground is sixty feet. The structure is the most imposing and by far the most substantially built one in the city of Olney. Nothing has been spared to make it strong and durable, and for ventilation, it is, as said



CITY RESIDENCE OF HENRY C. SANDS, OLNEY ILL. OWNER OF MEADOW BROOK TRAINING FARM.



before, second to none. It was erected under the immediate supervision of H. M. Hall, Esq., superintendent of buildings and bridges of the O. & M. Railway. The corner stone of the building was laid with the proper Masonic ceremonies, by Rev. W. H. Scott, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons, on the first of June, 1880, who, on the evening of the seventh of February, 1881, dedicated the hall to the service of Freemasonry, with the impressive and solemn ceremonies of the craft, in the presence of many distinguished Masons from abroad and about 250 ladies and gentlemen of the city.

The membership of these bodies is approximately as follows: Symbolic Lodges, 190; Capitular Masonry, 85; Cryptic Masonry, 37; Chivalric Masonry, 120.

*The Odd Fellows.*—Richland Lodge, No. 180, I. O. O. F., of Olney, Ill., was organized by James E. Starr, G. M., July 27, 1855. Charter members: William Newell, George W. Leaf, John Banks, Thomas J. Rusk, George W. Haynie. First officers: William Newell, N. G.; Thomas J. Rusk, V. G.; G. W. Haynie, Secretary; John Bank, Treasurer. Past Noble Grands: William Newell, G. W. Haynie, G. W. Heap, J. Banks, N. Whitney, R. Byers, E. Kitchel, I. C. Upton, G. W. Carothers, E. Bowyer, I. S. Robinson, A. Martin, D. Kieffer, S. W. Gunn, S. Baird, W. T. Shelby, James Cochran, John Tagart, K. D. Horrel, W. C. Rickard, William Wilson, L. M. Parker, George Kipp, Asher Gaslin, D. T. Clark, Levi Notestein, Henry Marshal, J. R. Johnson, R. G. Fowler, J. H. Roberts, W. E. Robinson, J. A. Bourrell, John Gaddis, J. D. Chauncy, W. H. Wallace, William Rhode, A. A. Allbright, G. H. B. Tolle, A. J. Goetz, James Bourrell, R. A. Kinney, H. J. Sheets, R. Ginther, H. McClurg, O. Jones, J. J. Chastine, E. W. Ridgeway, S. S. Millner, M. Froelich, George Hill, H. L. Ince, J. N. Eggleston, John Gruber, A. H. Knost, C. Hasler, J. M. Price, N. S. Marshal, W. A. Cope, J. S. Jenkins, F. M. Bourrell, B. E. Betebenner, W. F. Rolan, A. J. Finch, S. J. Baker. In the year 1862, the membership was thirty-nine; and the finances were low, consisting of Illinois "wild cat" money worth 12 cents on the dollar. At the close of the war the membership increased to 109 members, in the year 1867, with finances \$1,500; 1871, cash on hand, \$2,309; 1883, cash, \$226, with \$1,300 invested in real estate. The cause of decrease in finances was on account of paying a sick brother benefits for a period of eight years, amounting in all to \$1,600. From January 1, 1883, to June 30, 1883, sick and funeral benefits were paid to the amount of \$326.25. Membership at July report, 1883, sixty-six. Present Officers: W.

A. Cope, N. G.; N. Niblo, V. G.; J. C. Herron, Secretary; G. E. Gaddis, Treasurer.

List of deaths: John Banks, J. H. Cartwright, L. M. Parker, Charles Wetzlau, Henry Palmer, John Palmer, H. J. Sheets, William Calvert, Alexander Steward, A. J. Goetz, J. C. Armstrong, O. Armstrong, George W. Heap, James Cochran, Jacob Blackford, W. E. Robinson, I. S. Robinson, S. S. Burnett, J. M. Brown, William Cobbs, J. B. Gharst, David Holms, J. H. Parker, Henry Seibert, W. W. Wise, A. W. Brewster, F. S. Benton, E. Kitchel, M. Chaplin, A. J. Finch. Sick and funeral benefits paid, \$4,375.

Olney Encampment, No. 61, I. O. O. F., was organized April 5, 1866, by Dr. Samuel Willard, G. C. P., of Chicago, Ill. Charter members: J. H. Cartwright, J. R. Hargrave, F. J. Hinman, Asher Gaslin, J. Brillhart, J. Oldendorf, P. Hires. First Officers: C. P., J. H. Cartwright; H. P., F. J. Hinman; S. W., J. Brillhart; J. W., J. R. Hargrave; Scribe, J. Oldendorf; Treasurer, P. Hires. Past Chief Patriarchs: J. H. Cartwright, J. Brillhart, Asher Gaslin, William Newel, W. C. Richard, J. R. Johnston, O. Armstrong, J. D. Chauncy, A. A. Allbright, John A. Bourrell, G. H. B. Tolle, A. Martin, J. S. Armstrong, Joseph Bourrell, J. H. Roberts, O. Jones, R. Ginther, M. Froehlich, H. L. Ince, S. S. Millner, J. Gruber, C. Hasler, M. Mantz, A. H. Knost, W. A. Cope, W. F. Rolan. Total membership at last report, eighteen. Present officers: C. P., John Balmer; H. P., H. L. Ince; S. W., B. E. Betebenner; J. W., W. A. Cope; Scribe, A. Martin; Treasurer, John Gruber. Financial condition at present, \$400. Deaths since organization: John Brillhart, G. W. Heap, J. H. Cartwright, O. Armstrong, J. S. Armstrong, John M. Brown. Sick and funeral benefits since organization, \$278.

Noble Lodge, No. 482. Charter granted March 12, 1872. Charter members: I. S. Armstrong, George Ellis, W. E. Alcorn, Henry Cox, and N. Fryburger. James C. Beeler was the first man initiated. I. S. Armstrong was the principal mover in the institution of the Noble Lodge. George Ellis and H. Friburger are the only surviving charter members. First officers: I. S. Armstrong, N. G.; W. E. Alcorn, V. G.; N. Fryburger, Secretary; H. Cox, Treasurer. Present officers: Ira P. Jones, N. G.; John Shields, V. G.; Harry C. Falconer, Secretary; George Ellis, Treasurer. Since the institution of the Lodge, there have been sixty-seven members initiated. The Lodge now has twenty-eight active members. Property worth at least \$400, and \$300 in the treasury. The Lodge is in a most prosperous condition.



*Knights of Pythias.*—Marmion Lodge, No. 52, Knights of Pythias, was organized and instituted September 30, 1874, by D. G. C., J. V. Swarthout, of Centralia, Ill., with the following charter members: N. S. Marshall, W. F. Beck, Jacob Carter, William Ratcliff, O. C. Moorhead, H. V. Fulton, Ed. F. Ridgway, G. C. Ridgway, A. Chaplin, L. Johnston, D. J. Parish, H. Marshall, W. M. Robinson, George Passmore, J. W. Phillips, H. C. Sands, F. P. Borden, T. Tippit, A. Tippit. The first officers were, Jacob Carter, P. C.; N. S. Marshall, C. C.; W. F. Beck, V. C.; J. W. Phillips, Prelate; Thomas Tippit, M. of E.; G. C. Ridgway, M. of F.; O. C. Moorhead, K. of R. and S.; W. M. Robinson, M. at A.; Lon. Johnston, I. G.; A. Chaplin, O. G. From that time the Lodge has progressed steadily, taking a front rank among the benevolent orders in our city. Its membership is composed mostly of young men, and among its ranks you will find the County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, County Superintendent of Schools, City Clerk, the editors of both of the county papers, many merchants and influential citizens of Olney. They have lost but three members by death, viz.: Ed. F. Ridgway, John O. Ebert, and Jonathan Mills. They occupy an elegantly fitted room in Wisshack's building, and have property and moneys amounting to nearly \$1,200. Its present membership is seventy-five, among whom are ten Past Chancellors. The Lodge has one member who is an officer of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, in the person of W. F. Beck. There is also the Endowment Rank of the K. P.'s with a membership of twenty, who carry an insurance on their lives of \$40,000. The present officers are as follows: P. C., T. M. Richardson; C. C., R. N. Stotler; V. C., J. B. Newman; Prelate, H. B. Wheeler; M. of E., J. T. Ratcliff; M. of F., O. C. Palmateer; K. of R. and S., N. A. Lough; M. at A., Ed. Von Gunten; I. G., C. Weiland; O. G., A. Ensey; Trustees: W. F. Beck, R. N. Stotler, T. M. Richardson.

*G. A. R.*—Olney Post, No. 92, G. A. R., Department of Illinois, is one of the largest and most flourishing Grand Army posts in the State of Illinois. Comrades Robert Sims and William Mattoon took the initiatory steps for its organization. Gen. Rowley Page, of Galesburg, Ill., mustered the Post on April 7, 1881. There were twenty-four charter members, viz.: Eli Bowyer, David Edunston, John J. Coons, Theodore Schifferstein, William Bower, Oris C. Palmateer, I. P. Cope, James M. Bradford, Beriah Bicknell, J. A. Salisbury, E. M. Cummins, J. T. McGinnis, Robert Sims, J. C. Rush, John E. Jones, Philip Heltman, Chris. Hasler, William H.

Myers, George Hall, O. H. Clark, H. Bolinger, Jonathan Mills, T. O. Besley and William Mattoon. The Post selected its first officers as follows: Post Commander, Gen. Eli Bowyer; Senior Vice Post Commander, David Edunston; Junior Vice Post Commander, John J. Coons; Surgeon, Theo. Schifferstein; Officer of the Day, John C. Rush; Chaplain, Rev. O. H. Clark; Adjutant, T. O. Besley; Quartermaster, William Rhode; Officer of the Guard, Robert Sims; Sergeant-Major, William Mattoon; Quartermaster-Sergeant, William T. Prunty.

Memorial Day, May 30, 1881, was duly observed by the Post, whose membership at this time had swelled to one hundred. The Olney Cornet Band and the different societies of the city, in full uniforms and regalias, assembled at the schoolhouse yard, where the vast crowd listened to music and to speeches by Comrade William Mattoon and Gov. John P. St. John, of Kansas; thence proceeding to the cemetery in the presence of 5,000 people, the ritualistic services of the G. A. R. for Decoration Day were held in an impressive manner.

Memorial Days, May 30, 1882, and May 30, 1883, were observed by Olney Post in a like solemn and impressive manner. Speeches were delivered by Hon. J. C. Allen and by Hon. E. Callahan, of Robinson, Ill., to immense throngs, who came in delegations from a distance. William Mattoon, for the year 1882, and J. H. Senseman, for the year 1883, were elected and served as Commanders of the Post.

Among those who are deserving of special mention for their generous and untiring work in promoting the welfare of Olney Post, we mention Eli Bowyer, J. C. Rush, Theodore Schifferstein, J. A. Berry and David Fleming. Our Post has enrolled about 250 members, of whom 150 comrades are at this writing in good standing. We have lost but two members by death since our organization, viz.: Comrades H. J. Sheets and Jonathan Mills. Olney Post has been instrumental in the organization, and actually mustered sixteen new posts of the Grand Army at places as follows: Newton, Mount Carmel, Sumner, Fairfield, Enfield, Xenia, Noble, Jeffersonville, West Salem, Louisville, Ingraham, Bible Grove, Bone Gap, Bird Station, Willow Hill and Rose Hill. This Post is also entitled to the credit of having successfully planned and managed the grand Soldiers' Reunion, held at Olney, Ill., on October 10, 11 and 12, 1883. Major H. M. Spain, Commander of the Camp, Captain H. M. Hall, Chairman of the Executive Committee, and Philip Heltman,

Quartermaster, performed faithful and invaluable services. Captain John S. Cochenore, the one-legged soldier, mounted on his dashing steed, in the sham battle, achieved great honor for his chivalry in the charge, and final victory, amid the roar of cannon and the din of musketry. All the State officers but one were present. Gov. Hamilton, Old Dick Oglesby, Gen. Cullom and others, delivered able addresses, that were listened to with deepest interest by the great multitude of 20,000 people.

Olney Post has always been free from political dissension, and her charities have relieved many soldiers and their widows and orphans in distress. During the late Soldiers' Reunion, October 10, 11 and 12, 1883, held at Olney, Ill., through the efforts of Mrs. Dr. Rowland and others, a fine silk banner worth forty dollars was procured and presented to Olney Post, No. 92.

The present officers, elected December 7, 1883, are as follows : H. M. Spain, Commander ; J. C. Rush, S. V. C. ; George Hall, J. V. C. ; J. A. Berry, O. D. ; I. O. Wolf, O. G. ; Dr. E. Rowland, Surgeon ; H. I. Ince, Chaplain ; W. H. Wolf, Quartermaster.

*I. O. M. A.*—Olney Lodge, No. 95, of I. O. M. A., of Illinois, was organized October 5, 1880, with thirty-five members, by M. L. Ross, D. G. P., of Quincy, Ill., (since deceased). Original members : Fletcher T. Phillips, Fred. Sterchi, William Allen, Samuel P. Herron, J. M. Price, S. S. Millner, William Voigt, John Balmer, Frank Boon, L. Gossman, H. J. Hahn, A. E. Stamm, Simon B. Reinhard, Austin F. Struble, Alex. Tennyson, N. S. Marshall, W. J. Wolfe, J. J. Coons, S. Y. Pearson, Chris. Balmer, D. Bryan, Albert Ratcliff, Peter Dietrich, S. A. Whitney, John T. Shaw, Peter Brillhart, William A. Thompson, F. M. Bourrell, H. H. Kingsbury, G. H. B. Tolle, J. L. Randel, L. A. Warren, W. H. H. Tooley, Jonathan Mills, (deceased), John Gries. Joined since, up to November 30, 1883 : G. W. Armsey, G. W. Sparr, J. F. Runyen, F. E. Schonert, Charles Fletcher, Martin Mantz, W. A. Cope, Chris. Launer, B. E. Betebenner, John Krieg, David Jones, John Robards, H. G. Fahs, A. H. Newsum, D. H. McGahey, William Rhode, William Ferriman, L. W. Palmateer.

The officers at organization were : Past President, J. J. Coons ; President, S. S. Millner ; Vice President, H. H. Kingsbury ; Recording Secretary, W. J. Wolfe ; Financial Secretary, J. M. Price ; Treasurer, F. M. Bourrell ; Trustees, N. S. Marshall, J. J. Coons, S. P. Herron ; Conductor, A. Tennyson ; Inside Guardian, P. Brillhart ; Outside Guardian, J. Balmer ; Chaplain, J. T. Shaw. Present officers :

President, B. E. Betebenner ; Vice President, J. F. Runyen ; Recording Secretary, N. S. Marshall ; Financial Secretary, J. M. Price ; Trustees, Fahs, McGahey, Runyen ; Conductor, W. A. Cope ; Inside Guardian, John Balmer ; Outside Guardian, P. Dietrich. The Lodge is in a flourishing condition, financially and otherwise.

*Catholic Knights of America.*—Olney Branch, No. 173, Catholic Knights of America, was chartered March 31, 1881, with the following charter members : Rev. John W. Muscher, Thomas Brassie, John T. Dolan, Richard Lewis, Maurice Buckley, Felix Brassie, William Steed, Sebastian Gast, William Harget, Frank P. Gillespie, Isadore Brassie, Augustus Brassie and L. J. Schifferstein. Charter received and organized, Ambrose Schneider being admitted as member with card from Trenton Branch, No. 50, C. K. of A., and the following officers were elected to serve until last meeting in December, except two trustees, which were to serve, one for one year following from last meeting, and second for two years following from last meeting in December; following officers were elected : Rev. John W. Muscher, Spiritual Director ; Frank P. Gillespie, President ; William Harget, Vice President ; Ambrose Schneider, Recording Secretary ; John Thomas Brassie, Financial Secretary ; Felix Brassie, Treasurer ; William Steed, Sentinel ; Isadore Brassie, Sergeant-at-Arms ; L. J. Schifferstein, Maurice Buckley, A. Brassie, Trustees. The Branch is in a flourishing financial condition, and has a membership of thirteen. Following are the present officers (December, 1883) : Rev. John W. Muscher, Spiritual Director ; William Harget, President ; William Steed, Vice President ; Ambrose Schneider, Recording Secretary ; John Thomas Brassie, Financial Secretary ; Sebastian Gast, Treasurer ; Isadore Brassie, Sergeant-at-Arms ; Richard Lewis, Sentinel ; Isadore Brassie, Trustee for one year ; Rev. John W. Muscher, for two years ; Maurice Buckley, for three years.

*A. O. U. W.*—This is a fraternal organization which combines with it a feature of insurance, which guarantees to the legatees of the member the sum of \$2,000 upon his demise. Olney Lodge, No. 76, was organized May 3, 1877, by W. H. McCormick, of Beardstown, Ill., Deputy Grand Master, with the following officers and charter members : P. M. W., J. M. Longenecker ; M. W., W. F. Beck ; F., T. H. Johnson ; O., J. J. Coons ; Recorder, W. H. Wolfe ; Fin., J. H. Roberts ; Receiver, J. B. Gharst ; Guide, N. S. Marshall ; I. W., H. G. Fahs ; O. W., S. C. Wilson. Members : J. C. Brockman, O. B. Morehouse, S. Bacharach, C. Launer, D. Scott, J. S.

Johnston, M. Froehlich, R. H. Harrison, W. A. Campbell, M. E. Bacharach, John Fleming, C. F. Fleming, C. S. Mitchell, L. J. Schifferstein, Henry Godeke, Aden Knoph, P. Shepherd, C. N., Payn, J. P. Wilson, Chris. Egglar, S. T. Wells, H. M. Hall, J. Carter, D. B. Ridgley. This Lodge has been exceedingly prosperous, and to-day has a membership of one hundred. It has lost by death four members, J. B. Gharst, W. H. Richey, Chris. Burgener and E. B. Barnard. They formerly occupied the hall of the Knights of Pythias, but in October, 1882, they rented their present hall, leasing the hall for twenty years. They were partially burnt out November 8, 1882, by the burning down of the Von Gunten building. It was with difficulty that the building was saved, but its trustees being practical business men, had their property insured, thus meeting with no financial loss. The Lodge has been very prosperous since its organization, and to-day has a handsome cash surplus in the treasury. The Lodge has been honored by having its first Master Workman, W. F. Beck, elected to the second highest position in the Grand Lodge, that of Grand Foreman. The Lodge is composed mostly of business men, and comprises among its members many prominent citizens, viz. : the Sheriff of the County, the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Marshal. They meet regularly every Tuesday night, in their hall opposite the court house, and where visiting brethren are cordially invited. The present officers are as follows : P. M. W., William Rhode ; M. W., W. H. Wolfe ; F., F. Bohren ; O., J. H. Roberts ; Guide, G. P. Kaley ; Recorder, F. H. Fisk ; Fin., O. C. Palmateer ; Receiver, J. H. Shepherd ; I. W., G. Egglar ; O. W., A. Ensey.

*Olney Legion, No. 18, Select Knights.*—This Legion was instituted October 11th, 1882, by Deputy Grand Commander John L. Hundley, of Fairfield, Ill., with thirty-eight members. This is a higher grade of the order of Ancient Order of United Workmen, and is a semi-military organization, and is beneficiary in its objects. A person to become a Select Knight must be a Master Workman in good standing. First Officers : H. Godeke, S. C. ; S. Fishback, V. C. ; O. C. Palmateer, L. C. ; R. R. Byers, Recorder ; H. Mehmert, Treasurer ; E. M. Spring, Recording Treasurer ; F. Bohren, Chaplain ; W. L. McFarland, S. B. ; J. C. Van Allmen, S. W. ; W. P. Shepherd, J. W. ; J. J. Coons, M. ; John Schaar, Sr., G. ; James Hollister, William Rhode and F. Schmadel, Trustees. Present officers : H. Godeke, S. C. ; W. F. Beck, V. C. ; O. C. Palmateer, L. C. ; G. P. Kaley, Recorder ; G. Gaddis, Treasurer ; E. M. Spring,

Recording Treasurer; F. Bohren, Chaplain; F. H. Fisk, S. B.; J. C. Van Allmen, S. W.; John Bohren, J. W.; Arch. Spring, M.; Jacob Schiet, G.; W. F. Beck, C. F. Fleming and G. R. Kaley, Trustees. Meet first and third Thursday evenings of each month.

*Calhoun Lodge, No. 166, A. O. U. W.*, of Fairview, Madison Township, Richland Co., Ill., was instituted in April, 1880, by W. F. Beck, D. G. M. W., with some eighteen or more charter members, whose names, as well as those of the first officers, are to the writer unknown. At this date (January, 1884), the Lodge has a membership of some fifty or sixty, and is in a flourishing condition, both financially and otherwise. The Lodge contemplates the erection of a new and elegant hall during the coming summer.

The first or charter members were: Warren Frazee, J. E. Willson, F. M. Heath, S. S. Canby, R. A. Hunt, James Dodds, D. W. Pritchett, F. M. Kent, J. H. Deem, J. P. Soliss, J. R. Roberts, Cable Hauser, Levi Williamson, R. F. Crandell, M. Von Congdon. Officers: M. Von Congdon, P. M. W.; J. P. Soliss, M. W.; Levi Williamson, F.; Warren Frazee, O.; R. A. Hunt, Financier; J. E. Willson, Receiver; S. S. Canby, Guide; James Dodds, G. W.; F. M. Heath, O. W.; J. H. Deem, R. F. Crandell and D. W. Pritchett, Trustees. Opened with fifteen members; now have forty-eight; have lost two by death. Our first assessment was \$15. The first Financier's Report was \$6.50, and the Receiver's Report \$7.50. We now have over \$200 in notes, in the hands of the Trustees, and the last report of the Receiver was \$77.50. The Financier's Report of November 24, was \$63.75.





*H. A. Beck*