CHAPTER II

DU PAGE TOWNSHIP

Settlement Patterns in Du Page Township

Du Page Township is one of the most geographically varied of the townships in northwestern Will County, containing two river valleys separated by what was once open prairie. The northern edge of the township contains the east branch of the Du Page River, with a valley up to one-half mile wide separating bluffs approximately 60 feet high. In the southeastern quadrant of the township is a bend in the Des Plaines River framed by bluffs more than a mile apart. Parallel to Des Plaines River are the channels of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the Sanitary and Ship Canal.[1] The prairie that lies between the two rivers is actually a low ridge connecting the Rockdale Moraine to the southwest and the Valparaiso Morainic System to the northeast. (Additional information on the geological development of Du Page Township is contained in Chapter I.)

Du Page Township is crossed by the Indian Boundary Line, established by a treaty between representatives of the Potawatomi, Ottawa, and Chippewa tribes and Illinois Territory commissioners and signed in St. Louis on 24 August 1816. The boundary lines defined a corridor to allow European settlers access to Lake Michigan for the construction of a waterway (developed as the Illinois and Michigan Canal, discussed in Chapter I). The corridor was surveyed by James M. Duncan and T.C. Sullivan in 1819.[2]

There are slightly different versions for the origin of the name Du Page. The traditional story is that it is derived from the name of a French trapper, Du Pazhe, who settled in the 1820s along the river to later bear his name. He is alleged to have been an agent for the American Fur Company of St. Louis (whose presence there dates from 1821) and may have married a Native American woman.[3] DuPazhe's trading post was located at the confluence of the east and west branches of the Du Page River, in either Section 7 of Du Page Township or Section 11 of Wheatland Township. Structures located at the trading post reportedly included crude log cabins enclosed with a timber stockade.[4] A second and perhaps more scholarly version is that the name Du Page is a derivation of the French name Pagé. The owner of the trading post on the Du Page River (which the Native Americans called Tukoquenone) was either Pierre Pagé (1715–1752) or (less likely) his brother Joseph Prisque Pagé (1717–1764). The Pagé brothers were members of a prominent family in Kaskaskia, located on the Mississippi in the southwestern part of the state.[5]

Beginning in 1830, numerous settlers of European origin came to the area, including Pierce Hawley, Stephen J. Scott and his son Willard, and Ralph Stowell. All settled in the wooded areas surrounding the

---

[1] The channel of the Des Plaines River widened at a point lying in the southern half of Section 26 and northern half of Section 35 in Du Page Township. This portion of the river was known as Goose Lake, as marked on historical maps. Today, Goose Lake has "moved." it is now marked on such maps as the U.S Geological Survey map of Romeo Quadrangle as being located in the northern half of Section 19, in what was once likely a former quarry site.

[2] *Will County Property Owners, 1842* (Reprint, Joliet, Illinois: Will County Historical Society, 1973), 1.

[3] Ada Douglas Harmon, "Story of an Old Town – Glen Ellyn," as quoted in Genevieve Towsley, "A View of Historic Naperville," N.p, n.d., and reprinted in James D. Bingle, *Bolingbrook Has Even More History* (Bolingbrook, Illinois: Bolingbrook Historical Society, n.d. [circa 1980]).

[4] Elmer F. Ott, "Old Hickory School in Du Page First in Will County" *Joliet Herald-News*, 27 October 1962, p. 7.

[5] Ulrich Danckers and Jane Meredith, *Early Chicago* (River Forest, Illinois: Early Chicago, Incorporated, 1999), 134. Based on research by John F. Swenson, "A French Trader Named Pagé: The Origin of Du Page," *Du Page History* 3 (1996).

east branch of the Du Page River.[6] The winter of 1830–1831 was known as that of the "Deep Snow," when, beginning a few days before Christmas, snow fell to a depth of three feet with drifts of four to six feet. High winds and bitterly cold temperatures continued over the next two months, leaving many homesteaders trapped on their land.[7]

In 1831, these early settlers were joined by Israel Blodgett, Robert Strong, Harry Boardman, Reverend Isaac Scarritt, and Lester Peet. Blodgett established the farmstead in Section 6 that was later owned by Jonathan Royce.[8] Boardman, discussed later in this chapter, came from Vermont via New York. Seth Wescott, John Barber, and John Miller arrived in 1832. As with the previous year's settlers, the new arrivals settled along the valley of the east branch of the Du Page River, a region known at the time as "Fountaindale" because of the presence of many springs and aquifers. The following description was published a few years later:

> *Fountaindale,* a flourishing settlement in the forks of the Du Page [River], Cook county [sic], thirty miles west of Chicago. Here are perennial springs, beautiful timber, rich soil, extensive prairies, and good society of industrious and enterprising farmers. The Methodists and Presbyterians have congregations and constant preaching.[9]

A secondary source of early pioneer settlement was written by Mabel Garrette, descendent of three of the European families that came to the region in the 1830s: the Boardmans, Wescotts, and Freemans. Mrs. Garrette was the last family member to own the Boardman land in Section 4 of Du Page Township. Garrette's remembrances of family lore was written and deposited with the collection at the Martin-Mitchell Mansion in Naperville. She made several remarks not found in published writings on the early period of European settlement. For example, Seth Wescott, recorded as purchasing 320 acres in Section 10 on 2 June 1835,[10] arrived in the area not in 1832, but as early as 1826:

> [Seth Wescott] came to the "Du Page country" from New York, but was originally from Vermont, as were most of the settlers there. My grandfather, Seth Jr., told me that the family called him "Indian Wescott," and that he came west for the first time around 1826. Since he did not like the marshy country around Fort Dearborn, he returned east, but was in Illinois again in 1831. In the winter of 1831, so my grandfather says, he cut timber for Bailey Hobson's saw mill and occupied a cabin near the Hobson cabin.[11]

---

[6] Pierce Hawley was from Vermont and first settled downstate within the early borders of Sangamon County. Hawley was a Mormon, and after some years in the Du Page region emigrated first to Nauvoo, Illinois, and then to Utah. Disgusted with some members having a "plurality of wives" at that time, he left the Mormon faith and settled in Iowa until his death. The Scotts were from Baltimore. Stephen J. Scott later emigrated to California after the Gold Rush of 1849. Ralph Stowell, born in Ohio, established the farmstead that was later owned by Glover, which is discussed at the end of this section of the chapter. (George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Wm. Le Baron Jr., & Company, 1878), 526–29.)

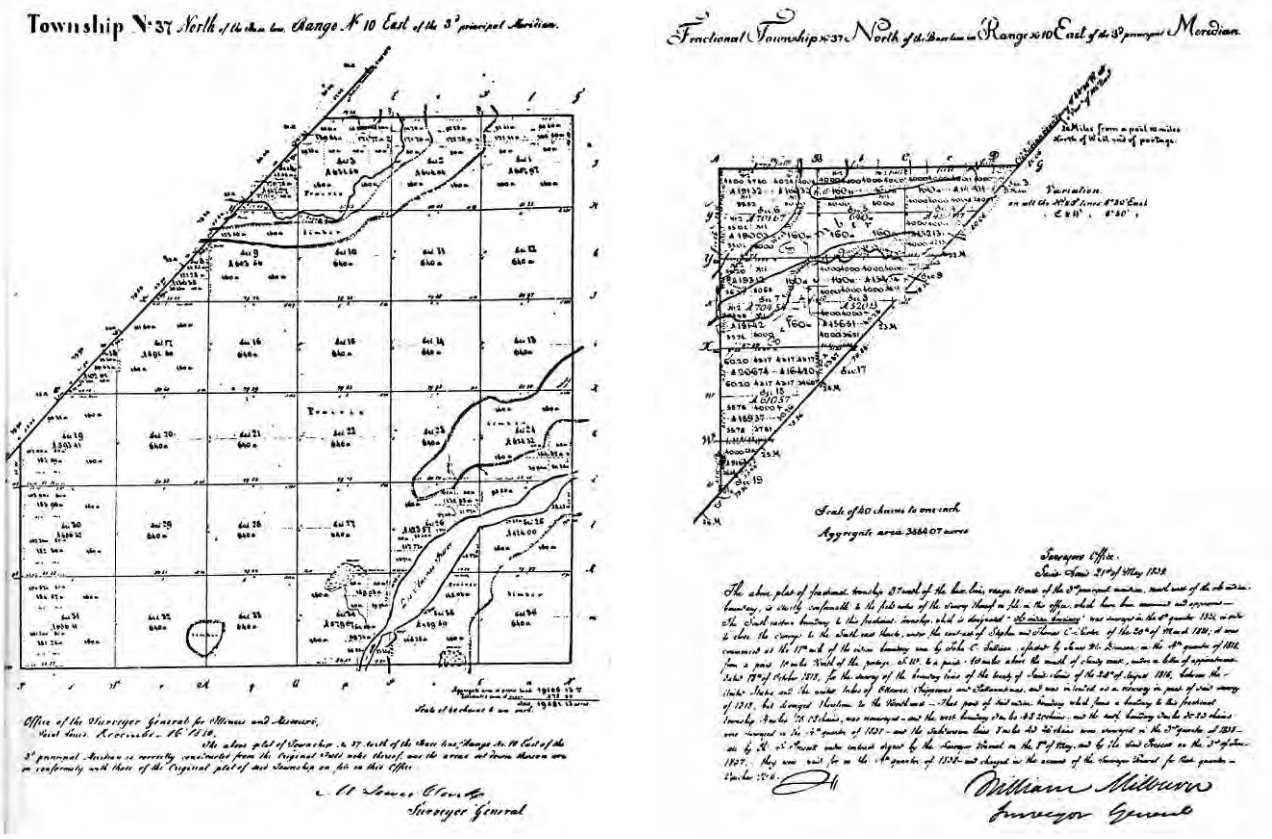
[7] See Appendix D for the experiences of early settler Bailey Hobson in southern Du Page County during this winter.

[8] Ibid., 529. (Burhans and Van Vechten, *Map of Will County, Illinois,* 1862.)

[9] J.M. Peck, *A Gazetteer of Illinois, in Three Parts: Containing a General View of the State, a General View of Each County, and a Particular Description of Each Town, Settlement, Stream, Prairie, Bottom, Bluff, Etc.; Alphabetically Arranged* (Philadelphia: Grigg & Elliot, 1837), 205.

[10] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database at http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/genealogy/landsrch.html. Wescott purchased an additional 40 acres, in Section 15, on 18 November 1841, and 80 acres, again in Section 15, on 8 June 1842.

[11] Genevieve Towsley, "Pioneer Triumvirate on East Branch of Du Page," *Naperville Sun,* part II, 14 September 1979, p. 10, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Has Even More History.* The newspaper article that quotes this account states that Wescott's inhabiting the cabin near Hobson, whose narrative is contained in Appendix C, is substantiated in C.W. Richmond and H.F. Vallette, *A History of the County of Du Page, Illinois* (Chicago: Steam



Shown at left is an illustration of the plat map for Du Page Township dating from 1821. After the ceding of Native American held lands outside of the Indian Boundary Line in 1833, the northwest portion cut off in the 1821 plat map was officially available for settlement, as shown in the plat may at right dating from 1837. However, as discussed in the narrative, European settlers were occupying the out-of-bounds region prior to 1833. (Both illustrations reproduced from James D. Bingle, Bolingbrook Has Even More History *(Bolingbrook, Illinois: Bolingbrook Historical Society, n.d. [circa 1980].)*

During the Black Hawk War of 1832, European settlers were forced to take shelter in fortifications in the area. In a letter from Caroline Strong, wife of Robert Strong, to her sister Venelia, she reports on the families that sought refuge in Fort Dearborn and Fort Payne, located near Chicago Avenue and Ellsworth Street in Naperville. The fort was a stockade approximately 100 feet square, with block houses set at opposite diagonal corners. The following is an excerpt from Mrs. Strong's letter:

> I suppose by now you hear much said of the present affliction of this State. How eagerly you must search for and listen to all the news concerning us, your far-off Robert and Caroline who are really in the midst of trouble! I tell you I am tired of war times as was far and guess you would be too if you had to live as I do. For four days after we came to this place we had to live entirely out of doors, 'tho we were permitted to sleep under shelter. Since then we have had a comfortable house, but there are only two small rooms and six families to occupy them. There are twenty-two children. There are five or six crying, two or three scolding almost constantly, besides all the rest of the confusion naturally expected in such a place as this….
>
> We stayed at Chicago nearly four weeks. (Women and children [had] fled to Fort Dearborn for protection when danger of Indian attack threatened the Naper settlement.) When thinking we

---

Presses of Scripps, Bross & Spears, 1857). Wescott was among the volunteers in the Black Hawk War. Mrs. Garrette also wrote the following: "The first Seth Jr. died at the age of four and was buried under a tree in the yard for fear of theft by the Indians. My grandfather, the second Seth Jr., vouched for this fact. As stone marked 1835 and placed in the Boardman cemetery, but the body was never moved."

> should be as safe at home as there [Fort Dearborn], we ventured to return. As day or two after we got home, Genera Atkinson sent 40 of his men, commanded by Captain Payne, to build a fort and to remain at this place, which is four miles from our house. The day after they arrived here, one of their men was killed by hostile Indians….
>
> …Two months ago we were quietly pursuing out labors, thought not of danger or interruption, especially from such a quarter. But what a contrast! What before was peace and prosperity was suddenly reversed into scenes of fear, distress, and poverty. Homes were deserted, farms left uncultivated, large droves of cattle left to range on their boundless fields. Now people are just beginning to creep our of their hives and tremblingly take a peep at their old homes which, I assure you, do not look as though they had ever been inhabited by human beings. Some houses where the owners were previously permitted to escape were visited by Indians and everything destroyed….[12]

In the late fall of 1832, after the cessation of hostilities in the Black Hawk War, the first public school was constructed in what was then Cook County. It was a log structure located near the intersection of Barkdoll and Royce Roads in Section 5 of Du Page Township, on land owned by Robert Strong. This first school in either Cook or Will Counties was "of cheap construction even for early pioneer days."[13] The walls were split hickory logs laid on edge, with split side facing the interior; the chinking (or filler material) between the logs was reportedly a mixture of clay, mud, and twigs. The school was built by the early settlers in the immediate vicinity.[14]

After the Black Hawk War and the resettlement of Native Americans to the west of the Mississippi in 1833, settlement in the region increased. Samuel Goodrich, Andrew Godfrey, Harry and Philip Lord, Samuel Whallen, William Smith, and Hannibal Ward arrived in 1833 and 1834, and also settled near the Du Page River.[15] Abner Royce arrived in 1835 (with his son Jonathan) and settled in Section 5. Thomas J. Sprague visited the region in 1837 and settled the following year.[16] Most of these settlers chose land with stands of timber to use as fuel and building materials. It was surmised that the prairies spanning between these wooded sections would not be suitable for farming, and that it would be decades before the region was fully settled. However, by the early 1840s every section in the township had at least one farmstead.[17]

Within a short period of time, enterprising settlers constructed saw and grinding mills in the region. The first such mill was a sawmill built in 1836 by Alden and Scott. Four years later another sawmill was built by Harry Lord, and like the earlier mill was built in the Du Page River. Both were washed away during flooding within a few years. A grinding mill powered by horses was built by Pierce Hawley. The first tavern was kept by Ralph Stowell along what is now Boughton Road east of Naperville Road. Hobson's mill, located north of the east branch settlers in what later would be southern Du Page County, was also the site of tavern.

As stated in Chapter I, Will County was formed from the south and southwestern portions of Cook County on 12 January 1836, and included the region known after 1850 as Du Page Township. Along with the later named Wheatland Township immediately to the west, the two regions were known as the Du

---

[12] Caroline Strong to her sister Venelia, quoted in Genevieve Towsley, "A Letter from Fort Payne," in *A View from Historic Naperville*, reproduced in James D. Bingle, *Bolingbrook Does Too Have a History* (Bolingbrook, Illinois: Bolingbrook Historical Society, n.d. [circa late 1970s]).
[13] Ott, "Old Hickory School in Du Page First in Will County"; and Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 533.
[14] Ibid.
[15] George H. Woodruff, *Forty Years Ago: A Contribution to the Early History of Joliet and Will County* (Joliet, Illinois: Joliet Republican Steam Printing House, 1874), 18.
[16] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 532.
[17] Ibid.

Page precinct (the name Fountaindale had been abandoned).[18] On 9 February 1839, Du Page County to the north was formed from nine townships on the western edge of Cook County. As originally planned, the northern half of Wheatland and Du Page Townships were to be included in the new county to the north. However, this plan was contingent on the passage of a referendum held in the two Will County townships in August of that year. The referendum failed by one vote, leaving Du Page precinct part of Will County.

Du Page Township was formally organized in 1850, following legislation passed in Springfield in 1849 that called for the township form of government in Illinois counties.

An early post office in the region was at Barber's Corners, located at the intersection of contemporary Boughton Road and Route 53 between Sections 10 and 11 on land owned by John Barber and his sons. It was opened on 21 December 1846. Later, the Du Page Post Office (established on 16 April 1856) was located at the intersection of contemporary Naperville Road and Lily Cache Lane.[19] Another post office was located in the southwestern portion of the township, named "Long John" after John Wentworth. "Long John" Post Office was opened 13 January 1848 and disbanded 2 July 1859.[20] By the early 1900s the only post office reported to be operating in the township was at Romeo station on the railroad line paralleling the Des Plaines River.[21]

The Social Statistics schedule from the 1860 federal census lists seven schools in Du Page Township with a total of 212 pupils. Approximately 40 percent of the funding for the school was provided by local taxation, 40 percent from other public funds, and 20 percent of other sources (which presumably includes private donations).[22] No churches are listed on the Social Statistics schedule for 1860, nor are any shown on the plat map from 1862.[23] However, the first church established in Du Page Township was First Presbyterian Church of Du Page, whose original church building dates from 1853. This congregation and the crossroads region at which it lies is discussed later in this chapter.

The Agriculture Schedules for the 1870 federal census lists a total of 20,032 acres of improved (tilled) land and 2,752 acres of woodland. Seven hundred and eighty-two horses, eleven mules, and four working oxen were present. Dairy cattle numbered 1,099 head and beef cattle 1,092 head. Sheep were quite numerous at this time, with 2,132 head, and swine numbered 971 head. The spring wheat crop at that time was 16,821 bushels. Corn yields were 84,170 bushels and oat yields were 125,642 bushels. Among other crops produced, the largest yields were in potatoes, with 14,692 bushels.[24] The following table summarizes diary production in Du Page Township as compared to other selected regions of the county, including the adjacent townships:[25]

---

[18] W.W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, 1907), 75.
[19] *Illinois Place Names*, William E. Keller, editor, and James N. Adams, compiler (Springfield, Illinois: Illinois State Historical Society, 1989), 286 and 344.
[20] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 533; and *Illinois Place Names*, 423.
[21] Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois*, 75.
[22] Social Statistic Schedules for Illinois, Eighth Federal Census, 1860. Illinois State Archives, Record Group 951.017. This census data was compiled by A. Amsden, whose farmstead was located on land that is now occupied by the George L. Mather farmstead in Section 28 of Du Page Township.
[23] Burhans and Van Vechten, *Map of Will County, Illinois*, 1862.
[24] Productions of Agriculture, Agriculture Schedules for Illinois, Ninth Federal Census, 1870. Illinois State Archives, Record Group 951.010. Du Page Township hay production as listed in the schedule was 6,579 bushels.
[25] It is possible that the statistics (from the Agriculture Schedules for Illinois, Ninth Federal Census, 1870) are not complete, as shown by the lack of entries for Wheatland and Plainfield Townships.

Item	Du Page Township	Wheatland Township	Plainfield Township	Lockport Township	Homer Township	Channahon Township (southwest Will County)	Crete Township (eastern Will County)
Butter (pounds)	**68,605**	60,335	56,780	1,180	65,915	45,664	84,660
Cheese (pounds)	**21,340**	6,810	Not listed	Not listed	660	300	19,200
Milk (gallons)	**9,944**	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	Not listed	72,790

Census data from 1880 lists two cheese factories: T.J. Sprague and Sons and S.H. Richardson.[26] Sprague's business, open April 1 through the end of the year, was valued at $3,000. Richardson's business was open year-round and was valued at $8,000. Average daily wages for dairymen were $2.25 and $2.50, respectively. Each enterprise utilized a boiler and steam engine with four horsepower capacity.[27] Production for the two dairies is summarized below:

Dairy	Number of Cows Providing Milk	Butter Produced (pounds)	Price per Pound of Butter	Cheese Produced (pounds)	Price per Pound of Cheese	Net Profit (Fiscal Year 1 June 1879 to 31 May 1880
T.J. Sprague and Sons[28]	300	30,522	23 ¢	110,992	6 ½ ¢	$5,078
S.R. Richardson[29]	500	40,911	26 ¢	107,913	8 ¢	$8,060

The following sections focus on specific settlement patterns in Du Page Township.

The Rural Crossroads of Du Page Township

Unlike Lockport and Plainfield Townships, Du Page and Wheatland Townships never developed any large-scale settlements—although another viewpoint would be that these two townships did not develop *from* any large-scale settlements. Since Lockport and Plainfield both date from early in the settlement period of the region, a symbiotic relationship between urban and agricultural areas was able to evolve. These towns developed from commercial and transportation concerns that were not specifically related to the surrounding rural community (although as already cited, both town and farm evolved together). Lockport was founded around the Illinois and Michigan Canal; Plainfield was founded from a variety of interests, including the Oswego to Chicago Stage route.

However, Du Page Township contains numerous types of smaller settlements or gatherings of people and functions, and these smaller types such as hamlets and rural crossroads are found throughout rural areas. Hamlets have been defined as places with less than 250 permanent residents. Rural crossroads are even smaller, although they have the same combination of rural and formal, almost urban qualities found in larger communities. Rural crossroads are of two types: social centers and commercial centers. These include the presence of institutional structures and sites, such as a post office, a school, a church, a

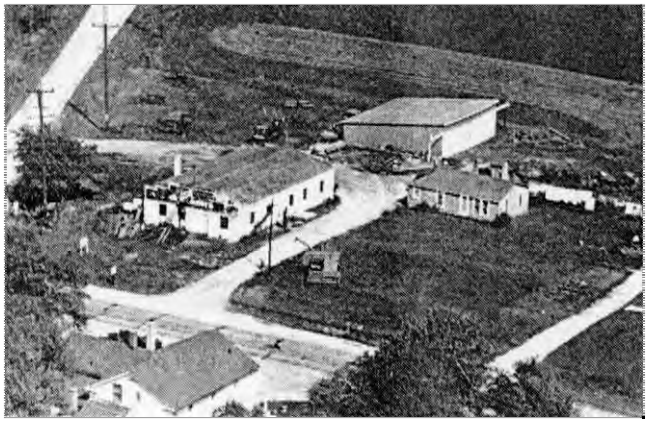
[26] Biographical information on Thomas Sprague is provided below in the discussion of Sprague's Corner.
[27] Flour and Grist Mills – Cheese, Butter, and Condensed Milk Factories, Special Schedules of Manufactures, Industrial Schedules of Illinois, Tenth Federal Census, 1880. Illinois State Archives, Record Group 951.015.
[28] The location of T.J. Sprague's cheese factory was at "Sprague's Corners." However, the location of Sprague's Corners cannot be determined from the available research material.
[29] S.R. Richardson's cheese factory located at Barber's Corners, as discussed later in this chapter.

commercial structure, or a park or recreation space as the core of the crossroads.[30] These institutions were established to meet the needs of the surrounding farmers: a post office to send and receive mail, a school to educate their children, a church for the religion common to the farmers in the region, a shop or business conveniently located for trading purposes, or simply a gathering space. The placement of such centers depended on the distance from which area farmers could complete a round trip in one-half day's time. Besides buildings and parks, physical features may include some basic elements, such as groups of fences defining different property owners' land (which are usually smaller tracts than typically found in the surrounding rural areas); roadside parking for several vehicles, defined by gravel areas; or short lengths of sidewalks.

The following are some of the rural crossroad that were once present in Du Page Township; few signs of these settlements are still present. As discussed in the rural survey report for Wheatland Township, some significant elements of the rural crossroads have survived there.

Barber's Corners

The site was named for John Barber, who owned the land on two easterly quadrants of the corner; Seth Wescott owned the other two. The "corners" are defined by two roads: Boughton Road (originally called Plainfield-Chicago Road) running northeast to southwest, which connected Plainfield with Chicago via the Du Page River Valley; and Route 53 running north south, which connected Lockport and the west bank of the Des Plaines River Valley with settlements in Du Page County. An early post office in the region was at Barber's Corners, opened on 21 December 1846.[31] Barber's Corners was the site of a Methodist Church, built sometime in the 1850s.[32] Seth Wescott gave 99/100 of an acre for a school at the Barber's Corners site, in the northwest quadrant, in 1855. A cheese factory was founded here around 1870, having been moved to this location from Lemont. The factory, described as being a frame building with a brick basement, was purchased by S.R. Richardson in early 1878.[33]



Barber's Corners circa early 1950s. *The two illustrations are aerial views dating from the 1950s, showing the schoolhouse and general store at the west side of the intersection (left photograph top) and the farm implement shop in the southeast quadrant (left photograph bottom and right photograph). (Both images from* This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955; the reproduction at left courtesy the Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission.)*

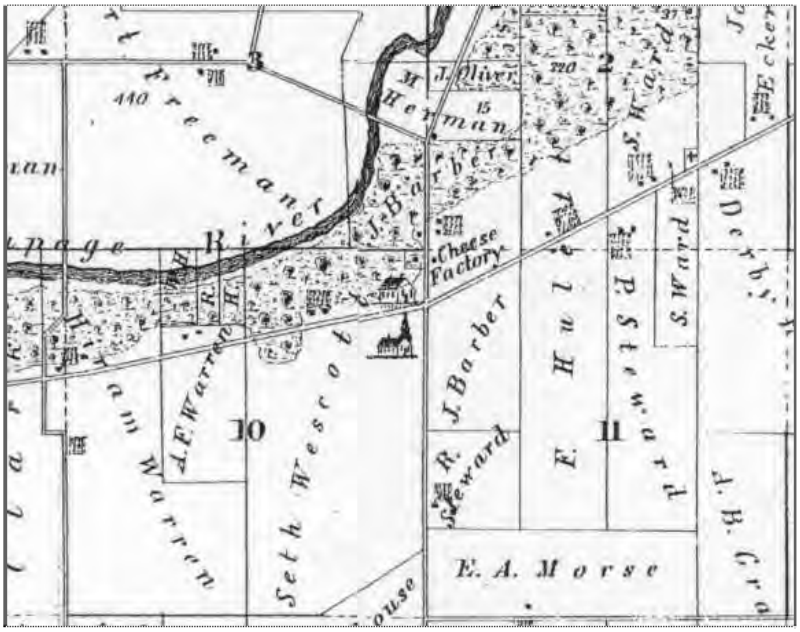
---

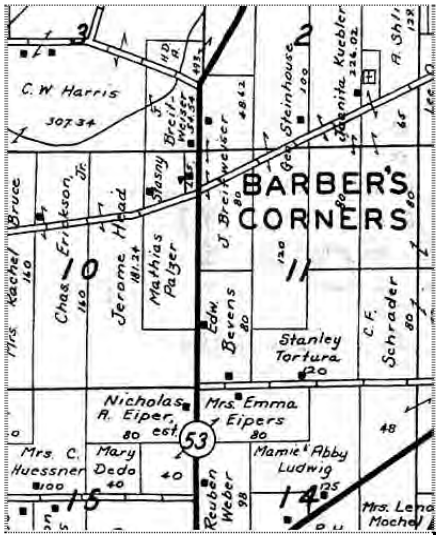
[30] However, the presence of a school does not always define a rural crossroads, since schools are typically positioned more frequently on the landscape because of the limited distances that children could walk (Michael A. Lambert, "Rural Crossroads: Meaning and Architecture," Master's degree student paper, University of Illinois, 1985).

[31] *Illinois Place Names*, 286.

[32] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 534. The plat map from 1862 shows a symbol in the southwest quadrant of the corner that may be indicating a church building – this is more clearly marked on the 1873 plat map.

[33] Ibid., 535.





Barber's Corners. *The illustration at left is a detail of the plat map for Du Page Township in the* Combination Atlas Map of Will County, *1873, showing the crossroads where Barber's Corners was located. Named for the Barber family who owned half the land at the site (Seth Wescott owned the other half), it had a Methodist church, a schoolhouse, and a cheese factory. The illustration at right is from the 1948 plat map, where the name Barber's Corners is prominently written.*

Activity at the crossroads continued until the 1950s and 1960s, when first the school was closed and moved for use as a house and then the surrounding area became enveloped in the development of Bolingbrook. Until that time, besides the church and school there was a farm implement store in a one story building on the southeast quadrant of the intersection and a general store (Clover Farm store) on the southwest quadrant. In 1979, the Bolingbrook Historical Society placed a marker, a boulder with a metal plaque, at the northeast corner of the intersection of Boughton Road and Route 53 (now Bolingbrook Drive), on the lawn of the Central Federal Savings and Loan, to commemorate the site of Barber's Corners. The boulder, likely deposited there during the ice ages, was moved from the site of Clow Airport.[34] The plaque has the following statement:

> Barber's Corners
>
> This intersection of Route 53 and Boughton Road, known as Barber's Corners, was never an incorporated municipality. It was named after the John Barber family who came here from Vermont in 1832. Over the last century and a half there has been at this corner a general store, Methodist church, cheese factory, and one-room school house. It was twice the location of the Du Page Post Office. Barber's Corners served the needs of the people in the area for decades, long before Bolingbrook was incorporated in 1965. This plaque is to insure that this part of our history endures, even though the name may disappear from the map.
>
> Bolingbrook Historical Society
> 1979

[34] "Historical Marker Commemorates Old Barber's Corners of the Past," *Bolingbrook Beacon*, 12 September 1979, p. 4, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Has Even More History.*

As shown above, Barber's Corners has changed considerably in the last 50 years. It is one of the region's busiest intersections and at the time of survey in July 2000 was undergoing roadwork to widen lanes. The marker unveiled in 1979, shown at lower left, was slightly displaced during the road work, making the plaque more difficult to read. (Newspaper image reproduced from James D. Bingle, Bolingbrook Has Even More History.)

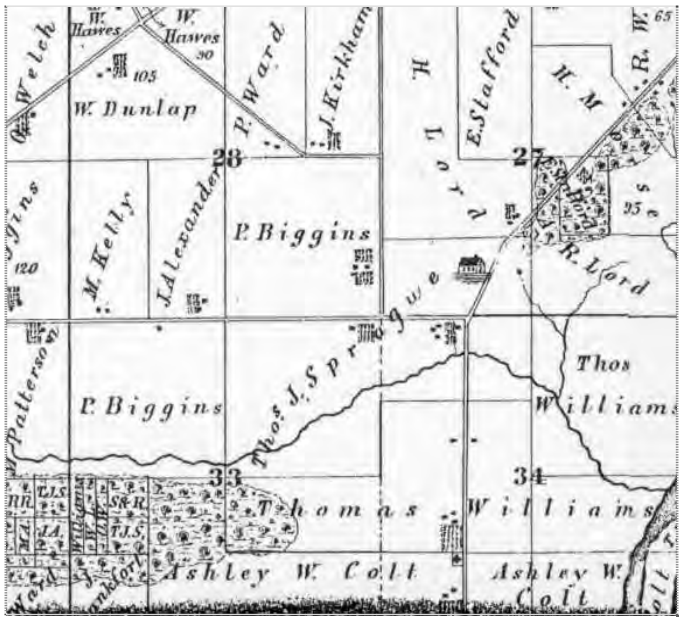
the BEACON September 12, 1979 Page 4

Historical marker commemorates old Barber's Corners of the past

Del Brietweiser studies the marker commemorating the old Barber's Corners that was. Born less than a few hundred feet from the site of the marker. Del recalled how things used to be when Rte. 53 was a little more than a farm road.

Sprague's Corner

"Sprague's Corner" appears to have had an ephemeral existence as compared to Barber's Corners, since it does not appear on any available plat maps and is mentioned little in published histories of the region. It may have been located near the home of Thomas J. Sprague in Section 27, perhaps near present day Joliet Road and Normantown Road. T.J. Sprague and Sons' cheese factory discussed above was originally built by Sylvester Ward[35] at Sprague's Corners. It was described as having a substantial frame building with a stone basement. The new enterprise cost $3,000 to construct.[36]



***Sprague's Corners**. Although not definitively identified, Sprague's Corners may have been located at near the intersection of present day Joliet Road and Normantown Road. However, this rural crossroads appears to have had a short existence. By 1902, the farmstead above located near the site of Sprague's Corners was owned by the Phelps family. (Illustration above from Robert E. Sterling,* A Pictorial History of Will County: Volume II *(Joliet, Illinois: 2H Printing, 1976); at right from Combination Atlas Map of Will County, 1873.)*

Thomas J. Sprague was born on 23 November 1810 in Hamburg, Erie County, New York. He moved west in March 1838 and settled in Du Page Township as a farm laborer. After spending 1839 as a laborer on the Illinois and Michigan Canal, Sprague purchased 160 acres in Section 22. He married Mrs. Lydia Godfrey, a widow, with whom he had nine children, six of whom survived to adulthood. In 1858, he moved to a new residence and 590 acre farm in Section 27. He was primarily involved in dairy farming.[37]

First Presbyterian Church of Du Page

The Scotch Presbyterian congregation that later became the First Presbyterian Church of Du Page initially met in the log structure that was the first public school on Robert Strong's land, constructed at the end of 1832. The congregation was ministered by Reverend Aratas Kent, a travelling missionary. In 1833,

[35] Sylvester Ward was born in Genesee County, New York, 29 May 1831. With his parents Hannibal and Jane Ward, he emigrated to the west in September 1833 and settled on land in Section 2. When Sylvester came of age, he moved to St. Charles in Kane County to work in his Uncle Justice Ward's wagon-hub manufacturing shop. Sylvester made improvements to the hub manufacturing machine invented by his uncle, allowing three workers to produce 100 hubs per day. This business was expanded to an 80 acre plot in Porter County, Indiana, and Sylvester Ward stayed with this venture for nearly three years. He then became the co-owner of a grist mill in Leland, LaSalle County, Illinois, for an additional two and one-half years. Sylvester Ward then returned to his family farmstead in Du Page Township and took over farming duties. He married Lorina Johnson in 1860, and the couple had two children, one of whom lived to adulthood. Hannibal Ward died on 23 December 1874, and was buried on the homestead. By the late 1870s, Sylvester Ward owned 355 acres valued at $21,000, and operated a large cheese factory that cost $3,000 to build. (Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 899–900.)

[36] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 535.

[37] Ibid., 898.

Reverend Nathaniel Cattlin Clark arrived to lead the congregation. The adoption of articles of faith and church covenants on 13 July 1833 followed the organization of the First Presbyterian Church in Chicago by only 17 days. In the 1840s the congregation met in the Naperville Courthouse, and was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Naperville. Since this location was inconvenient to those members of the congregation from Du Page Township, the First Presbyterian Church of Du Page was organized on 9 March 1844. Their first meeting house was the schoolhouse located on Robert Strong's land.[38]

First Presbyterian Church of Du Page*. The original building for the First Presbyterian Church of Du Page dates from the 1850s and reportedly is still extant. When the church was remodeled and a new sanctuary constructed in 1908, the original wood frame church building was overclad with a brick veneer. Comparing the historic photograph at upper left with the current condition photographs above and below shows that the volume of the original structure is still visible. (Historic photograph at upper left courtesy Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission, date unknown; aerial photograph at lower left from* This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955.)*

[38] "First Presbyterian Church of Du Page – Historical Sketch," reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Does Too Have a History*.

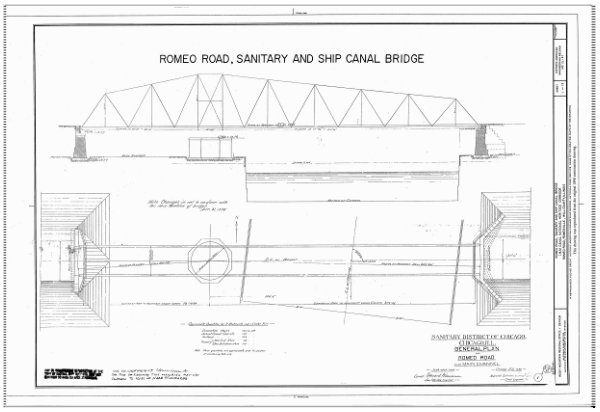
By the early 1850s plans were underway for the construction of a church building, which was located in the southwest quadrant of Section 8 of the township, along the road leading to Naperville. Land for the structure was leased from Reuben W. Smith, whose farmstead was located a half mile north on Naperville Road. The completed structure was completed on 24 February 1853.[39] This original church structure was renovated and enlarged in 1908, with a brick veneer overcladding the wood frame structure. (Comparison of the historic photographs illustrated above shows that the overall massing of the original structure is still visible.) An addition containing the present church entrance was constructed in the late 1970s.

Romeo Depot and Romeoville

European settlement at the site of Romeo dates from the early 1830s and was related to the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the founding of Lockport. Romeo was planned by the Canal Commissioners as a port along the proposed canal, with a plat recorded on 14 September 1835. A post office on the site had been established in the region on 29 June 1833 under the name of Juliet; on 29 October 1833, it was renamed Romeo, then changed back to Juliet on 27 February 1834.[40] In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, stone quarrying developed as an important business in the area. Another important business concern was a grain elevator located along the Illinois and Michigan Canal at 135th Street. With construction of the Sanitary and Ship Canal in the 1890s, the settlement grew.

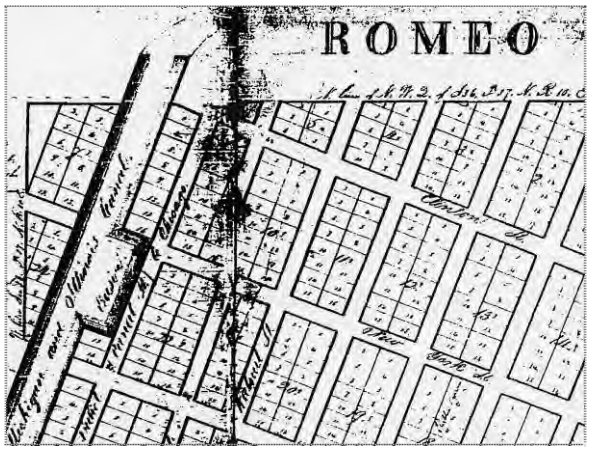
A post office was established on 5 December 1892 and the settlement was incorporated as a village on 21 January 1895 as Romeoville. After the turn of the century, the town was a distribution point for pulverized limestone as fertilizer for farmers in the surrounding area. Some of the gravel quarries in the vicinity were converted to a recreation area, which was known as Romeo Beach. On 11 April 1918, the entire village was threatened by fire as Peter Startz's saloon, residence, icehouse, garage, and barns were burned. Farrell's grocery store and dwelling were also destroyed before the fire was checked. The population of Romeoville in 1929 was 200 people with approximately 46 homes. After the first decades of the twentieth century the population of Romeoville declined – by 1950, there were only 147 residents.

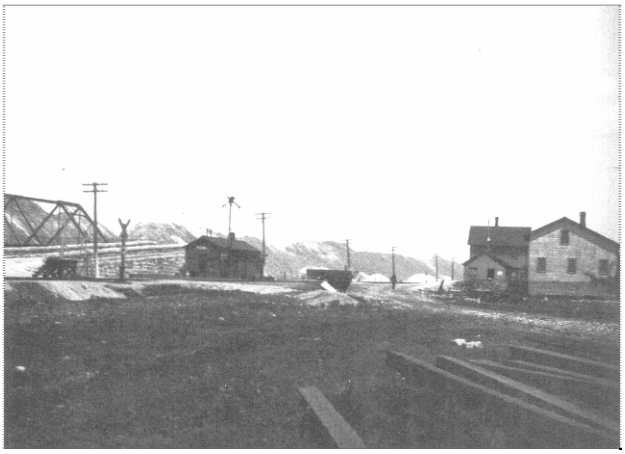
In 1955, the Will County Electric Generating Station was placed into service by Commonwealth Edison Company at Romeoville's southern edge. In 1957, Romeoville was revived through a suburban development on over 600 acres of farmland west of the Des Plaines River along Illinois Route 53. This became the Hampton Park Subdivision and was annexed into Romeoville. In 1964, another section of 446 acres of the subdivision were annexed into the village. From 197 resident in 1957, the population grew to 6,358 residents in 1963.[41]

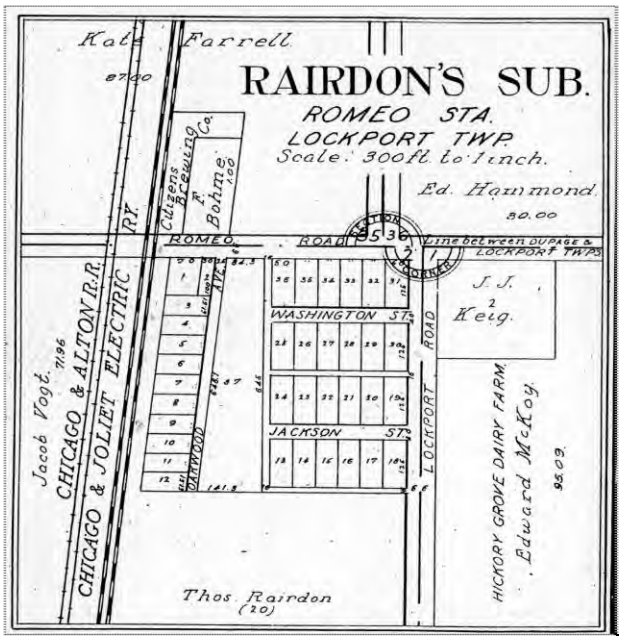


The illustration at left is a HAER drawing, showing a reproduction of the original construction drawing, of the bridge at 135th Street that was moved just west of its original location to the Isle de la Cache Forest Preserve (HAER IL-41).

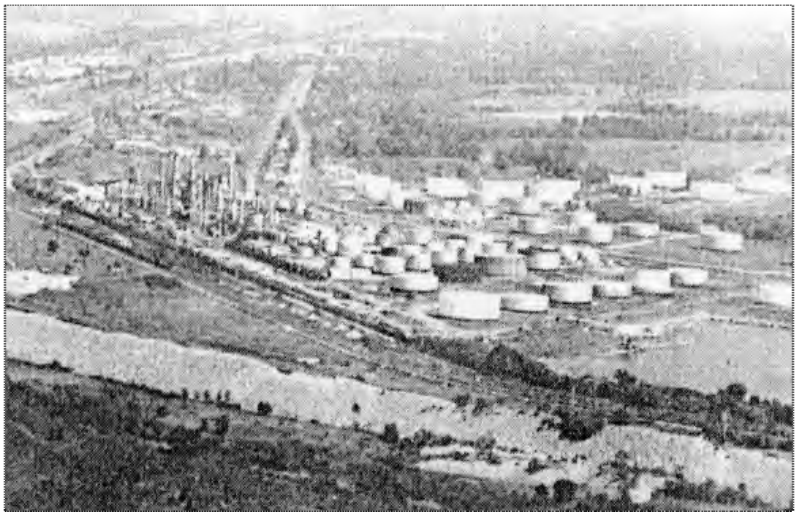
[39] Ibid. Other references list 1854 or 1855 (Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 534, who also mentions a remodeling circa 1875) and 1856 (Michael A. Lambert, "Rural Crossroads: Meaning and Architecture" [Master's degree student paper, University of Illinois, 1985.], 19).
[40] *Illinois Place Names*, 404–5.
[41] Mabel Hrpcha, "Romeoville, Illinois," (N.p., 1967), 1–3.







There are few recognizable remains of Romeo Depot or Romeo Beach. Shown above is the original plat for Romeo prepared for the I &M Canal Commissioners (reproduced from Mabel Hrpcha, Romeoville, Illinois *(N.p., 1967)). Houses of the original settlement of Romeo circa 1900 are shown above right; today a few of the wood frame structures remain on the east shore of the ship channel near the bridge at 135th Street (historic photograph above right from John Lamb,* Lockport, Illinois: The Old Canal Town *(Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 1999)). The plat map of Rairdon's Subdivision at right is from Geo. A. Ogle & Co.,* Standard Atlas of Will County, Illinois *(Chicago, 1909). Several houses and a church, including the house and church shown below, are extant at the site of Rairdon's Subdivision. Shown below right is the former gravel quarry that was converted for recreational use as "Romeo Beach" in the early 1900s. The pit still remains but is not readily accessible (historic photograph reproduced from Robert E. Sterling,* A Pictorial History of Will County: Volume I *(Joliet, Illinois: 2H Printing, 1975)). A current view of the Illinois Central Railroad tracks (formerly the Chicago and Alton Railroad), which was the site of Romeo Depot, is shown at bottom left.*

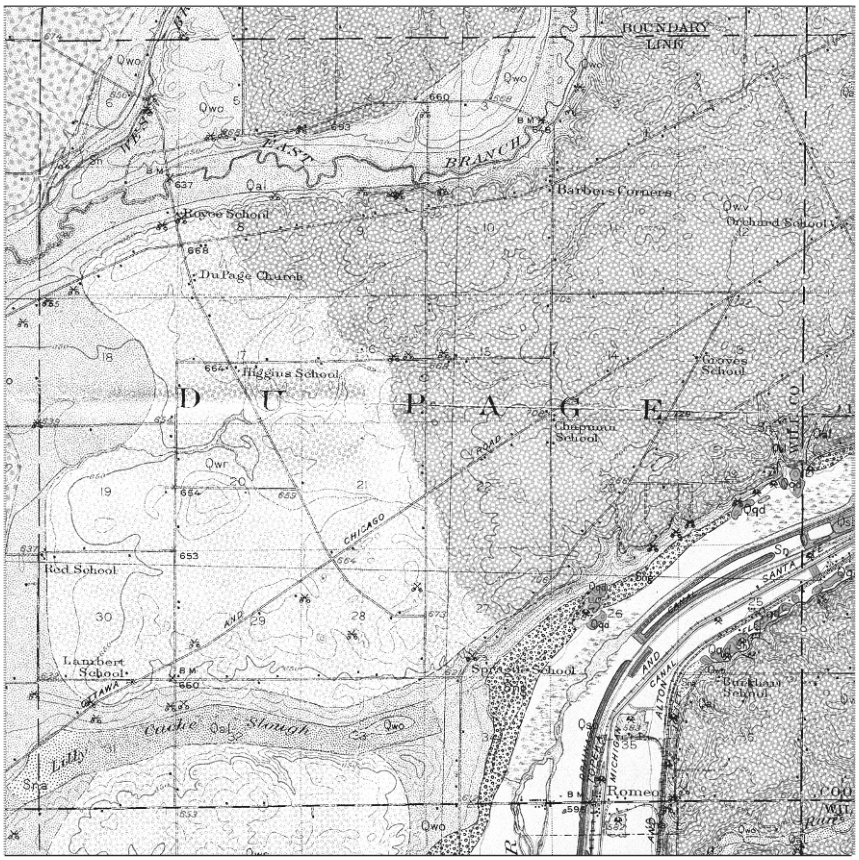


Industry on the Des Plaines River. *The land south of the bend in the Des Plaines River in Du Page Township was likely agricultural in the 1860s and 1870s, when it was owned by the Farrell family. The land later was owned by a business related to the stone industry, but became a petroleum refinery in the late 1930s. The oblique aerial photograph above is from* This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955. The overhead aerial photographs date from 1939 (above right), downloaded from the website of Grainger Map Library of the University of Illinois at* images.grainger.uiuc.edu.

Schoolhouses in Du Page Township

From the first log schoolhouse built on Robert Strong's land in 1832, the education system in Du Page Township expanded to five school districts with seven single room schoolhouses by 1860. This rate of expansion continued in the post-Civil War period with 11 schoolhouses (each comprising a district) with 22 teachers and 375 students by 1872.[42] Of these 11 schoolhouses, one was stone masonry and the remainder wood frame. As reported by one former student of the school system, "the pupils had to carry the drinking water from the nearby farms at recess and noon, also carry in the corn cobs and coal from the woodshed to feed a potbellied heater…."[43] The school buildings contained all eight elementary grades. Between 1880 to 1920, the population of Du Page Township decreased from 1,101 to 939. From the 11 districts and schoolhouses in the 1870s, there were only 8 in 1920. This was in response to a dramatically decreased student population of only 146 in 1920.[44]

The student population continued to decrease, with only 101 in 1948. In that year the Will County Survey Committee recommended that school districts in the region be reorganized, with schools in Du Page, Lockport, and Homer Townships merged into a unit school district. In 1951, the six separate school systems in Du Page and Lockport Townships were merged into District 96. The following year the district constructed Valley View School in what is now Romeoville. With the merger of the school system, the Chapman School was sold, moved to a site west of the former Barber's Corner, and renovated as a house



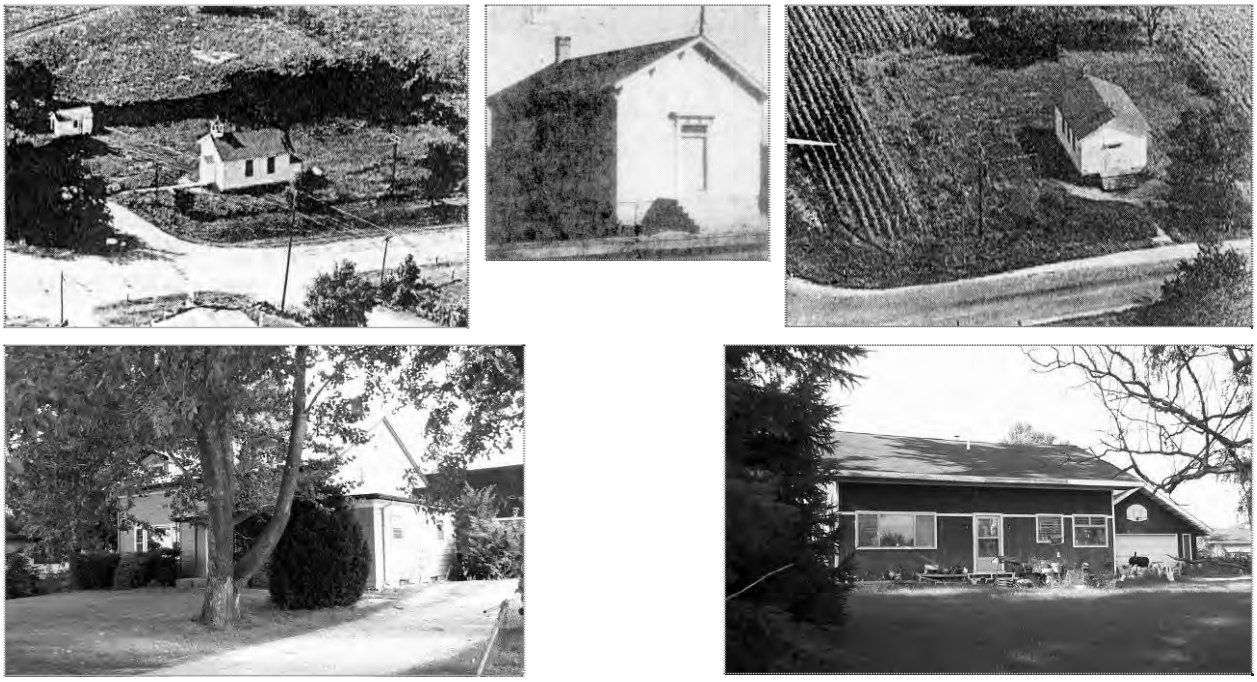
The map at left, dating from 1921, shows the following schools: Royce School on the boundary of Sections 7 and 8; Graves School in Section 13; Chapman School near the boundary of Sections 14 and 23; Higgins School in Section 17; Sprague School in Section 27; Red and Lambert Schools in Section 30; and Burkhart School in Section 36. Also shown is Orchard School in adjacent Downers Grove Township of Du Page County. (Map excerpted from Joliet Quadrangle, State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education, State Geological Survey Division (1921).)

[42] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 534.

[43] Elizabeth Eichelberger, "Octogenanian [sic] Tells How it Used To Be in the Old Days," *Bolingbrook Beacon*, 17 November 1971, p. 6.

[44] Leslie Joseph Farrington, "Development of Public School Administration in the Public Schools of Will County, Illinois, As Shown in a Comparison of Three Selected Years: 1877, 1920, and 1965" (Ph.D. diss., Northern Illinois University, 1967), 85–86, 167–68, and 276–79.

on the Gordon and Mae Konicek farm (Section 9). Barber's Corner School was purchased by Carl Rott and converted to a residence; it was later relocated west of its original site. Ricken School was purchased by Dwight Andrus, and later was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sahs. Gordon School became the home of Matthew Featherstone. Taylor School, located on Route 66 (now Interstate 55) was bought by Stephen Ward and renovated for his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Koch. Hillside School on Naperville Road became the lodge of the Hampton Park American Legion, but later burned in a fire. Orchard School saw new life as a school when it was relocated to Lemont Road with an addition constructed, and was renamed Bromberek School. Graves and Sprague Schools were reportedly demolished.[45] In 1972, after the incorporation of Bolingbrook seven years before, Valley View School District 365-U was formed.



At least two of the schoolhouses in Du Page Township were relocated and renovated. Top and above left is the Barber's Corner School, which was moved a few hundred yards west on Boughton Road. The top two illustrations at right are the Chapman School, relocated on Boughton Road as well. (Top left and right illustrations from This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955); top middle illustration courtesy Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission.)*

Cemeteries of Du Page Township

While not true anchor points for rural crossroads, the three historic cemeteries in Du Page Township remain as intact landmarks today. The three cemeteries include Hillcrest Cemetery (also known as Barber's Corner Cemetery), in Section 2; Boardman's Cemetery in Section 4; and Williams Alexander Cemetery in Section 34. Resurrection Cemetery in Sections 33 and 34 is a modern cemetery dating from the 1950s.

Boardman's Cemetery has received the most recognition as a historic site. The first recorded death of a European settler in Du Page precinct was Elizabeth Cleveland, 55, wife of a recent settler. She died in 1832 and was buried in the plot of land that had been set aside by Harry Boardman as a cemetery. Over the next 95 years, at least 86 individuals were interred in the cemetery.[46] Most burials occurred over the

[45] Eichelberger, "Octogenanian [sic] Tells How it Used To Be in the Old Days," *Bolingbrook Beacon,* 17 November 1971.

[46] Boardman Cemetery – Chronological List of Known Burials (1979), reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Has Even More History.*

next 50 years; only 8 burials have been identified after 1885 until the last in 1927. The list of persons buried in the plot reads like a *Who's Who* of early settlers and their descendents. Boardman's son Clarke, 1 year old, was the second burial. Strongs, Freemans, Wescotts, and Barbers are also present. Harry Boardman himself was interred here in 1877. Royces are present too, and their family members were the last seven to be placed here between 1896 and 1927.

Boardman's Cemetery was "lost" for nearly 45 years, as the plot was forgotten and overgrown. The cemetery was "rediscovered" by Lois Michel in 1972. Wanting more information on the burial ground lying in the middle of a field, she made inquiries to James Bingle, Du Page Township Assessor. No record of the cemetery existed, and only after further investigation was it discovered that Robert Strong, Samuel Whallon, and Isaac Scarrett had purchased the land from Harry Boardman in 1846. The three subsequently deeded the one acre plot to Will County, who lost record of it in the ensuing 125 years. Word of the re-identified cemetery reached the Will County Historical Society, which then wished to restore the markers and grounds. The Will County Board passed a resolution on 28 April 1972 deeding the plot to Du Page Township.[47] At the present, the cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence. Signage indicates contacts to call to gain access to it. A housing development dating from the last two decades was built around the cemetery, with three sides of it facing back yards of houses and the fourth facing a street.

Boardman's Cemetery has survived and is now surrounded by a recently built subdivision. A fence encloses the site and it does receive regular maintenance such as grass cutting.

Hillcrest and Williams Alexander Cemeteries are no less significant. These were located along major traffic routes (Boughton Road and Route 53, respectively) and as such were less likely to be "lost," like Boardman's Cemetery was. Hillcrest Cemetery is the largest of the three plots, bounded on the east and north by a housing development, on the west by commercially zoned land (formerly the site of the Steward Ward farmstead), and on the south by Boughton Road. The cemetery was incorporated on 1 July 1854 as Barber's Corner Cemetery, although the first burial there was of Harriet Martin, who died in July 1835.[48] The cemetery is first shown on the 1873 plat map. It was renamed Hillcrest Cemetery in 1929, and is still used today for burials. The plot is easily accessible since it has no gates at the driveway openings in the stone wall facing Boughton Road. At present, some of the markers are in poor condition and the landscaping requires tending.

Williams Alexander Cemetery, the smallest of the three historic cemeteries discussed here, is named for Thomas Williams and James Alexander. Williams, was born in the county of Cornwall, England, and

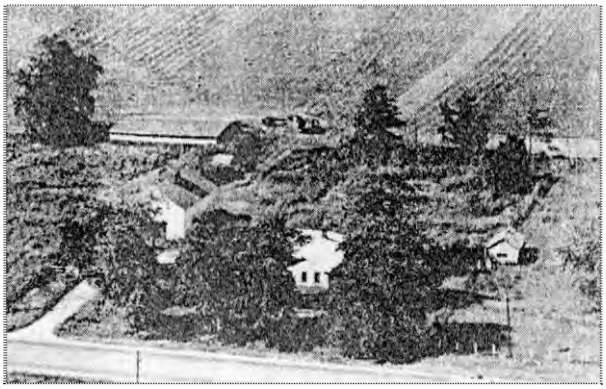
[47] "Hot Line," *Bolingbrook Beacon,* 23 February and 3 May 1972, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Does Too Have a History.* Perhaps significantly, the current U.S. Geological Survey map for Romeoville Quadrangle, dated 1993 but based on original survey information dating from 1952, does not show Boardman's Cemetery but does show "Barber's Corners Cemetery" and Alexander Cemetery.
[48] "Relate History of Old Du Page Cemetery," *Bolingbrook Beacon,* 3 May 1972, p. 26.

emigrated to the United States in 1825, was shown on the 1862 plat map as the owner of 160 acres in Sections 33 and 34. Williams had been in Du Page Township since 1836 to work on a contract for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. He later accepted a contract to build 12 miles of the Galena Division of the North-Western Railway.

Hillcrest Cemetery, shown above, on Boughton Road is the largest of the three historic cemeteries in Du Page Township. It contains the resting places of several farming families, including the Spragues, Hasserts, and Godfreys. The Williams Alexander Cemetery shown below is located in southern Du Page Township on Route 53. The cemetery contains two sections enclosed by low limestone walls.

James Alexander is listed in the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales as the purchaser of 120 acres of land in Section 33 on 11 September 1848.[49] It was on this land that the cemetery was established. Alexander was born in Massachusetts in 1805 and moved west in 1837. The first known burial in the cemetery was of Alexander's daughter Mary, who died on 9 October 1845. Both James Alexander and his wife Betsy were later buried in the cemetery as well. Other early burials were of members of the Smith, Gilbert, and Goudy families. Thomas Williams inherited the Alexander family farm in 1853, and Williams established a family plot in the cemetery near the Alexander plot. The Williams Alexander Cemetery first appears on the 1873 plat map.

The Alexander-Williams farm was acquired by Thomas Kirman in 1883. The Kirman family owned the farm until 1949, when it was purchased by Joseph and Minnie Mikan. The Mikans subsequently sold the land east of Route 53 as part of the post-World War II development of Romeoville. In 1953, the land west of Route 53 adjacent to Williams Alexander Cemetery was sold to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet. This land was later developed for Resurrection Cemetery.



West of Williams Alexander Cemetery is a more recent last place of rest: Resurrection Cemetery. This site had been the farm of Mrs. Fiona Kirman (as shown on the 1940 plat map), and historically had been listed as owned by Robinson and Anderson (as 1862 plat map). (Photograph at left from This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955.)*

Bolingbrook

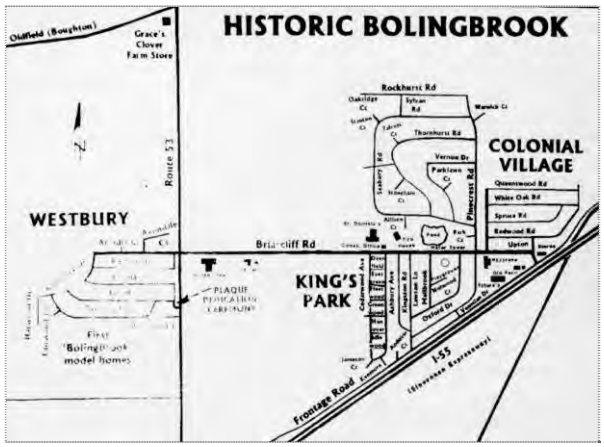
Du Page Township remained essentially rural in character until the early 1960s, when three subdivisions were built by the Dover Construction Company. The apocryphal story is that Dover named the new community "Bolingbrook" after Henry Bolingbroke, Duke of Hereford, from Shakespeare's *Richard II*. Construction problems with the new houses inspired the formation of the Bolingbrook Homeowners Association, which in turn led to referenda for incorporation. Incorporation began in Bolingbrook as a grass roots movement. Area residents published newsletters, including *The Bolingbrook Beacon* and *The Bull Sheet,* which promoted incorporation as a means to solving problems in the new community. When a referendum for incorporation was passed on the second attempt in 1965, the population of the village was 5,357.

At a parade to celebrate the first anniversary of the village, Judge Michael A. Orenic delivered a speech in which he made very insightful comments regarding urbanization, comments made at a time when suburbs in America were thriving and so many downtowns were declining:

> A real city is not merely a statutory corporation formed as a subdivision of the state for the administration of the laws. A real city is a living, throbbing, pulsing body and soul with all classes of people, of all ages and ethnic backgrounds, with infinite variety of houses and buildings, with narrow crooked streets and broad boulevards, and interesting alleys; with churches, schools, factories, stores, shops, noise, dust, smoke, children running and shouting, sirens and whistles, and above all else, a downtown. Every city must have a downtown – whether it be the corner drugstore of a little hamlet or the Loop in Chicago. Don't let any planners do away with your downtown….Whether or not you realize it, you must make your decision now. Do you want to be a real city or do you want to be the

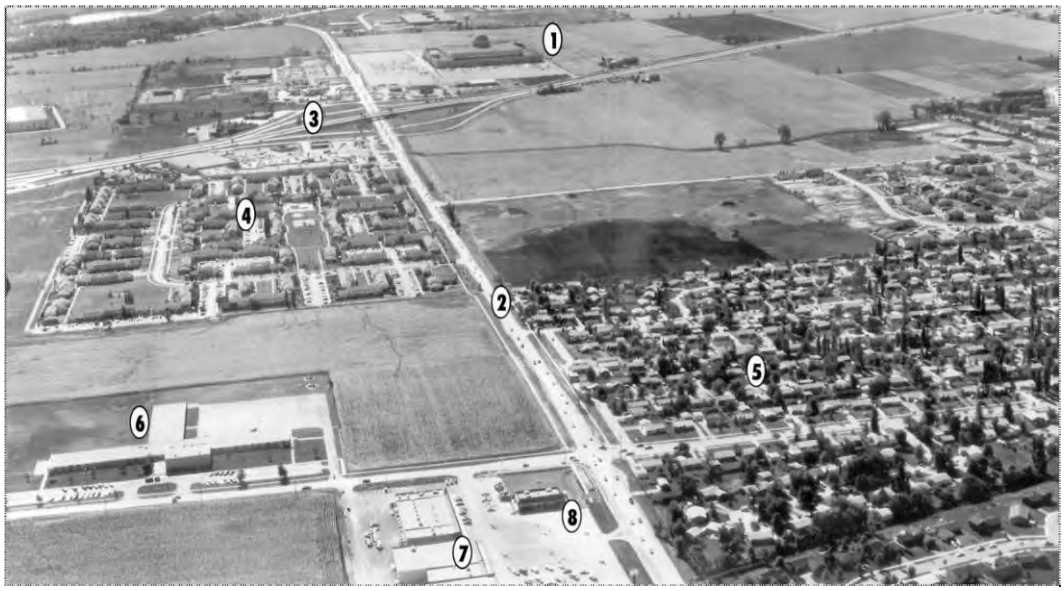
[49] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.

> Bedroom of the Metropolis? Your zoning ordinances based on comprehensive plans, your building codes, fire and police protection, municipal building and construction, utilities and services, annexation of territory–your every action–all will depend upon your vision of the future–suburban sprawl or living city?[50]



The former farmhouse shown in a historic photograph above right and in a current view above left was the first village hall for Bolingbrook. The house is located on Briarcliff Road and was part of the Graves-Schroeder farmstead. As shown on the map at left, early Bolingbrook consisted of isolated subdivisions separated by farmland: Colonial Village, King's Park, and Westbury.

When this aerial photograph shown below was taken on 8 October 1978, the landscape still had an agricultural character surrounding enclaves of suburban growth. On the photograph, number 1 is Old Chicago, 2 is Route 53, 3 is Interstate 55, 4 is Beaconridge townhomes (formerly the Reuben Weber farmstead), 5 is Westbury subdivision; 6 is North View School, 7 is Briar Square Shopping Center, and 8 is McDonald's. (Map and historic photographs courtesy the Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission.)



[50] "Bolingbrook Parade Huge Success," *Bolingbrook Beacon*, 29 September 1966, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Has Even More History.*

The following table summarizes the housing developments in Bolingbrook in the first ten years of its existence:[51]

Name	**Type of development**	**Number of units**	**Year started**	**Developer**	**Original farmstead owner (1862 or 1873)**	**Last known farmstead owner (year of plat map)**
Westbury	Single family	288	1960	Dover	Seth Wescott (1862)	Nicholas Eipers (circa 1940)
Colonial Village	Single family		1962	Dover	G. Cheese, A. Paxson, and H. Boardman (1862)	C.F. Schrader, Peter Grabow, and A.B. Graves (circa 1940)
King's Park					J. Halleck (1862)	John Reed and W. and M. Albrecht (1966)
Beaconridge	Townhomes	583	1967	K & B	L. and William Simmons (1862)	Reuben Weber (circa 1940)
Old Bolingbrook	Single family	986	1968	Dover		
Sugarbrook 1 – 4	Single family	630	1968	K & B	S.R. Rathbun, J.Q. Lander, Hiram Warren, and B.B. Clark (1862)	William and Grace Mathers, T. Moeller, R. and E. Kelm, and Marvin Hudek (1966)
Brentwood	Apartments	789	1971	Vavrus		
Cherrywood	Single family	385	1971	U.S. Home	Seth Wescott (1862)	Jerome Head (1966)
Indian Oaks 1 – 9	Single family	1,042	1971	Hoffman	L. Overholser, B.B. Clark, and Hiram Warren (1862)	Hattie Bushing, Gordon Konicek, and Thomas W. Bruce Jr. (1966)
Indian Oaks Townhomes	Townhomes	506	1971	Hoffman		
Innsbruck	Apartments	475	1971	Norman		
Ivanhoe 1 – 5	Single family	718	1971	Surety	John Barber and John Miller Estate (1862)	Joseph Breitweiser and Florence and George Steinhouse (1966)
Sugarbrook 5 & 6	Single family	275	1971	K & B		
Winston Woods	Single family	940	1971	Centex	John Barber and John Miller Estate (1862)	Joseph Breitweiser and Florence and George Steinhouse (1966)
Winston Village	Townhomes	649	1971	Centex		
Winston Oaks	Apartments	16	1971	Centex		
Balstrode	Single family	241	1972	K & B		
Cinnamon Creek	Single family	624	1972	K & B	D. Gordon and E.T. Durant (1862)	J. and E. Gordon and Joe Schumacher Jr. (circa 1940)
Home Run	Single family	205	1972	Pres. Malone	A. Warren (1862)	Charles Erickson (1966)
Pinemeadow / Sunridge	Townhomes	422	1972	K & B	S. Welch and L. Chapman (1862)	Mrs. Clara Heussner and Helen Schrader (1966)
Robinhood Way I	Townhomes	14	1972	Hoffman	Seth Wescott (1862)	Mattias Palzer (circa 1940)

A unique commercial and recreational development was opened in the Bolingbrook area on 21 June 1975. Planning for the development began in 1973. The $40 million project combined a "completely enclosed and climatized fairgrounds" with a 200 unit retail store and restaurant complex totaling 545,000 square feet. Built by Brant Construction Company of Long Beach, California, the structure was planned by Recreational Retail Builders, Inc., headed by Robert Brindle. It was hoped that the millions of people in metropolitan Chicago would flock to the attraction. The 31-ride amusement park lay at the center of the building with

[51] "Subdivision Analysis," May 1994, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Keeps Making History.*

facades "depicting turn-of-the-century Chicago," or "Chicago's 1893 Columbian (Fair) Exposition buildings," surrounded by the ring of shops and restaurants.[52] However, Old Chicago failed to be a long-term success. The amusement park area closed in 1980. Stores in the mall stayed open while efforts were made to find a new owner. The building closed for good in 1981. After considering different possible uses for the building, it was demolished in 1986. The lot is now occupied by the Arena Auto Auction.[53]

The intersection of Route 53 and Old Chicago Drive, the name of which is not the only remnant of the amusement park at the site–the trees along Route 53 were part of its' original landscaping.

With the coming of the American Bi-centennial in 1976 and the growing awareness of our nation's heritage, many local groups examined their own histories.[54] One effort in the Bolingbrook area was the founding of Bolingbrook Historical Society. "Even though the village was incorporated in 1965, we were settled in 1832 [sic],"[55] as Village Clerk Carol Penning was quoted in 1993. This recognition of Du Page Township's past is perhaps unique in a "new" suburban community, creating a sense of historical continuity. Known as the Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission since 1993, the group meets often to plan historical displays (such as those at the Bolingbrook Town Center), collect artifacts of the area's history, and participate in town events. Many of the commission's members have been from longtime farming families of the township, who are now residents of the suburb. One of the future plans of the commission is to open the original Village Hall on Briarcliff Road as a museum. As commission members were reminded at a recent meeting, Bolingbrook will be 50 years old in another 14 years.

In the 1980s, planning and construction began for Interstate 355, a beltway on the perimeter of metropolitan Chicago to link Interstates 90, 88, and 55. Planning for the extension of 355 has been developed, and will cut across the eastern edge of Du Page Township. However, implementation of these plans is awaiting approval of funding.[56]

---

[52] "Full Steam Ahead for Old Chicago Project," *Old Chicago News* 1, no. 3, n.d., reproduced in James D. Bingle, *Bolingbrook Keeps Making History* (Bolingbrook, Illinois: Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission, n.d. [circa 1995]). The primary author of this rural survey report spent his eleventh birthday at Old Chicago a few months after its opening.

[53] Website of Lisa Cummings, at http://members.tripod.com/lisawebworld/index.html. A chronology of Old Chicago's history is available at http://www.geocities.com/RVNRDR2/OldChicago/OCHistory.html.

[54] A similar awareness in 1876, during the time of the American Centennial, was one of the influences that led to the writing of many of the county histories, such as Woodruff's *History of Will County, Illinois.* Such histories provide a valuable resource, since they were written while many of the early settlers of some regions were still alive.

[55] Carney, Dan, " Bolingbrook Group Seeks Pieces of History," *Suburban Life Graphic*, 21 July 1993, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Keeps Making History.*

[56] A similar highway was planned in the late 1960s, meant to connect the Interstate 90 near Itasca to Interstate 80 near New Lenox. See "Hot Line," *Bolingbrook Beacon*, 12 November 1969, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Keeps Making History.*

Bolingbrook village officials announced in 1992 that an additional 2.5 square miles were to be annexed southwest of the existing boundary, extending the village to the incorporated limits of Plainfield. This land included farms owned by families for generations, including the Bronks, Kemmerers, and Days. The annexations were voluntary, with the Village of Bolingbrook negotiating with the property owners. In addition to the possibility for residential or light industrial development (much of what *has* been built falls in the latter category), the village was planning the annexed area to include the site of a new sewerage treatment plant.[57]

Du Page Township and the Will County Land Resource Management Plan

In 1990, the Will County Land Use Department, in conjunction with Teska Associates, Inc., prepared the Will County Land Resource Management Plan (LRMP) outlining the future development goals for the county in general and for each township. With respect to Du Page Township, the LRMP states that it is expected that region will continue to be urbanized, "second only to Joliet Township"[58] in density. Recommendations of the LRMP included the construction of interchanges along Interstate 55, since this was projected to be a significant corridor of light industrial and office development. However, careful planning was urged for development along the Des Plaines and Du Page River Valley because of the sensitive environmental conditions in each area. Much of this area at present is still occupied by industrial and mining operations, although park development has occurred along a portion of the Du Page River.

Neighboring Communities in Du Page and Cook Counties

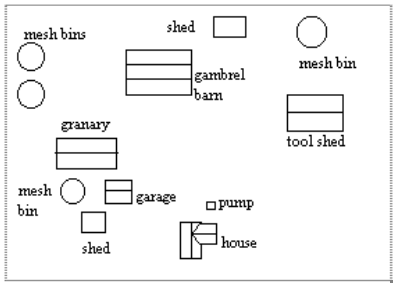
Because of the proximity of Du Page County to Du Page Township (Will County) and Wheatland Township, it is illuminating to examine the historical development of this region. Appendix D of this report contains a summary of the development of the Du Page County municipalities of Naperville, Downers Grove, and Woodridge, and the Cook County municipality of Lemont. Although Du Page County is now having a significant influence on northern Will County, during the period of early settlement the reverse was the case. Personalities like Bailey Hobson, Willard Scott, and Israel Blodgett had all been early settlers of the river valley of the north branch of the Du Page River but later moved to southern Du Page County. Also, along with the limestone industry that, literally as well as economically, formed the foundation of Lemont, this Cook County community was nearly as significant to the region as Lockport.

---

[57] "Bolingbrook to Annex Clear to Plainfield," *Bolingbrook Metropolitan*, 22 October 1992, reproduced in Bingle, *Bolingbrook Keeps Making History.*

[58] Teska Associates, Inc., and Will County Land Use Department, Planning Division, *Will County Land Resource Management Plan*, October 1990 and amended November 1996, 53.

Significant and Contributing Farmsteads in Du Page Township[59]



Shown above are extant buildings on the Amsden-Biggins-Mather farmstead on Normantown Road in Section 28 of Du Page Township (PIN 02-28-400-003). The farmhouse shown above left is a Side Hallway type, and shown above right is Erie Shore barn and the crib barn (marked as a granary on the plan view at center).

Amsden–Biggins–Mather

Albert Amsden is shown on the 1862 plat map as being the owner of the southeastern quarter section of Section 28 in Du Page Township. The plat map also shows the farmstead fronting on contemporary Naperville Road. The 1860 federal population census lists Albert Amsden, 36; his wife Sarah, 30; and three children: Oscar (born in Michigan), 11; Ella (born in Illinois), 8; and Alice, 9 months. The Agricultural Schedules of the 1860 federal census listed the A. Amsden farm as having 160 improved and 5 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,125 and $200, respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $600, which included 5 horses, 8 dairy cows, 5 cattle, and 12 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 150 bushels of wheat, 700 bushels of corn, 450 bushels of oats, 10 bushels of peas and beans, 60 bushels of potatoes, 65 bushels of barley, 700 pounds of butter, and 40 tons of hay. (Albert Amsden was the census taker in Du Page Township in 1860.)

The 1860 census also lists Patrick Biggins farm as being 160 acres. As shown on the 1862 plat map, Biggins farm was located in the northwest quadrant of Section 33 in Du Page Township, land he had owned since 1848.[60] The 1850 federal population census listed Patrick Biggins (spelled "Begins" on census forms), 40, born in Ireland; Bridget, 45, also born in Ireland; sons Francis, 12; Philip, 9; and James, 4; and daughters Ann, 15; Catherine, 10; and Rosanna, 7. Ten years later, the census does not include Bridget Biggins, indicating that she had died.

Between 1860 and 1870, Biggins purchased the Amsden farm (this is shown on the 1873 plat map). The 1870 census indicates the Biggins farm contained 320 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $16,000 and $1,000 respectively. A total of $600 were paid in wages for hired help including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $1,900, which included 11 horses, 6 dairy cows, 28 cattle, and 10 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 300

[59] This portion of the narrative describes the families who occupied significant extant farmstead sites in the three-township survey area. A few, although by no means all, of the families who had a significant impact on Will County agriculture and whose farmstead sites have not survived are also described. Sources of information have included the plat maps listed in the bibliography to this report as well as a variety of historical writings, including *Will County Property Owners* (1842); George H. Woodruff, *History of Will County Illinois* (1878); *Souvenir of Settlement and Progress of Will County, Illinois: A Review* (1884); *Portrait and Biographical Album of Will County, Illinois* (1890); *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois* (1900), W.W. Stevens, *Past and Present of Will County, Illinois* (1907); August Maue, *History of Will County, Illinois* (1927); as well as federal census data and the Agricultural Schedules from the 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 censuses.

[60] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.

bushels of spring wheat, 1200 bushels of corn, 2500 bushels of oats, 110 bushels of potatoes, $3 worth of orchard produce, 300 pounds of butter, and 60 tons of hay.

Presumably after Patrick Biggin's death the farm in Section 28 passed to his son James.[61] This is the farmstead that is present on Normantown Road today. As shown on the 1893 plat map, the farmstead belonging to the James Biggins family occupied the west half of the southeastern quarter section in Section 28. The eastern half of this quarter section is identified as belonging to Margaret Reardon (her relationship to the Biggins family, if any, is not known).

The 1909 plat maps show E. Biggins as the holder of the farmstead in Section 28 (Catherine Biggins, discussed below, is listed as owning the land in Section 29). The *Will County Farmers' Directory* of 1918 lists E.W. Biggins as a chicken farmer married to Mamie O'Connor with five children: William, James, May, Catherine, and Margaret. His farm was 182 acres and he had lived in the county since 1870. H.R. Phelps is listed as owner of the farmstead on the plat map from circa 1940. By the 1960s, this farmstead had passed to members of the Mather family. George, Millie, and George L. Mather are listed in succession on the plat maps between 1966 and 1998.

Shown above is the farmhouse and support buildings on the Anglemire-Kopperud farmstead in Section 20 of Du Page Township (PIN 02-20-300-001).

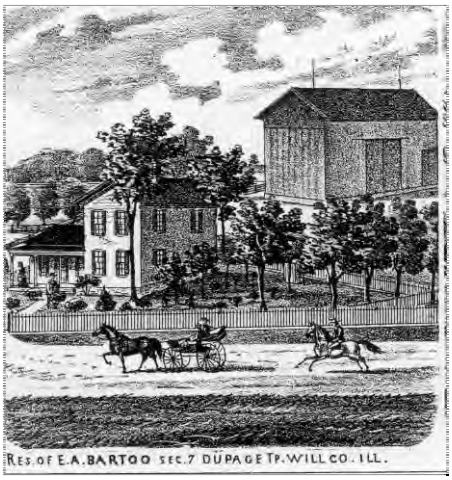
Anglemire–Kopperud

Emmanuel Anglemire is not listed in the census of Du Page Township from 1850. The 1860 federal population census lists Emmanuel Anglemire, 50, born in Pennsylvania; and children Henry, 21; Maria, 19; Elphaim, 17; Emma, 15; and William, 7. The Agricultural Schedules from the 1860 federal census list the Anglemire farm as having 160 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,800 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $300, which included 2 horses, 2 dairy cows, 2 cattle, and 3 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was 500 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of corn, 400 bushels of oats, 20 bushels of peas and beans, 200 bushels of potatoes, 150 pounds of butter, and 10 tons of hay.

The 1870 census indicates that the Anglemire farm had reduced in size, containing only 40 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $2,000 and $250 respectively. A total of $325 were paid in wages including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $325, which included 2 horses, 2 dairy cows, 1 cattle, and 3 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 50 bushels of spring wheat, 300 bushels of corn, and 250 bushels of oats. The Anglemire farm is not listed in the 1880 federal census.

[61] The James Biggins discussed here is not to be confused with the James Biggins discussed below. Based on the research materials that were reviewed, it is not clear if the two were related. However, the farms comprising the James Biggins Estate did pass to Catherine Biggins as of the 1909 plat map.

The Anglemire Estate held the land through the circa 1940 plat map. By the mid-1960s, Anglemire and Kopperud are listed on plat maps, with Mrs. William Kopperud and Dorothy A. Kopperud listed on plat maps in the 1980s and 1990s.



The farmhouse on the Bartoo-Elwood-Patterson farmstead in Section 7 of Du Page Township (PIN 02-07-300-009) was illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873. The house appears to have been an Upright and Wing type, although the one story wing was later enlarged to two floors. A later addition extends from the wing.*

Bartoo–Elwood–Patterson

The 1860 lists Benjamin Elwood, originally from New York, as a 55 year old farmer who lived with Sara W., aged 36, and Grace G., aged 9. The occupied two tracts of adjacent land in the southern portion of Section 7 and the northern portion of Section 18 according to the 1862 map. The 1893 map indicates the two tracts along with the plots owned by Bartoo and Virgil transferred ownership to Robert Patterson. The 1909 map indicates a larger plot owned by Patterson. The 1940s map indicates the land is now owned by M.J. Patterson. In 1966, the land was owned by Warren Patterson. By 1976, the map was owned by Warren and Frances Patterson. By 1990, the Frances M. Patterson was listed as the sole owner of the property.

The Gabled Ell farmhouse on the Biggins-Doyle-Kelley farmstead (PIN 02-30-300-010) is clad with asphalt shingle siding, a synthetic siding material that had common usage in the mid-1900s. The barn on the farm is clad with composition shingle siding, another common siding material.

Biggins–Doyle–Kelley

The farmstead at 21038 Normantown Road has been operated by a number of families. S. Annis is listed on the 1862 plat map. The 1873 plat map shows E. Mather to be the owner. Catherine Biggins is listed as owner on this plot as well as the remaining southwest quarter section on the 1893 and 1909 plat maps. E.M.

Biggins is listed on the plat map from circa 1940. The *Will County Farmers' Directory* of 1918 lists Edward M. Biggins as a breeder of Chester White hogs. Joseph J. Doyle, followed by Mary Kelley, have been the owners since at least the 1960s.

The farmhouse on the Biggins-Yackley-Boldt farmstead (PIN 02-29-200-003) has had numerous additions. Shown above right are the Three-bay Threshing barn, the clay tile block silo (an atypical material for construction silos in this region), and the crib barn with a transverse elevator.

Biggins–Yackley–Boldt

James Biggins, the first known owner of this farmstead, was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, on 11 May 1822, immigrating to America in 1840. He was joined by his brother Owen. The two settled in Du Page Township of Will County, establishing farmsteads in the southern half of Section 29. James married Catherine Poor in 1861, and the couple had six children: Eugene, James, Edward, William, George, and Mary. The elder James Biggins died on 15 June 1884. Owen Biggins died 19 April 1885.[62]

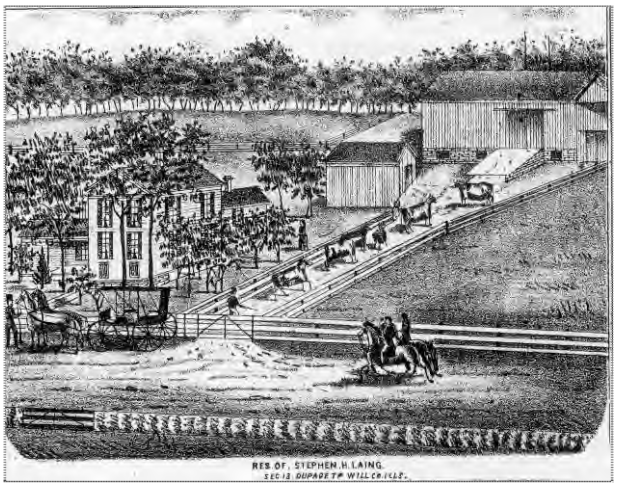
The 1870 census indicates the James Biggins farm contained 120 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,800 and $150 respectively. A total of $150 were paid in wages including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $525, which included 4 horses, 4 dairy cows, 5 cattle, and 6 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 100 bushels of spring wheat, 300 bushels of corn, 600 bushels of oats, 20 bushels of potatoes, 300 pounds of butter, and 40 tons of hay. The Owen Biggins farmstead is listed in the 1870 census as having 120 acres of improved land, with livestock including 4 horses, 6 dairy cows, 5 head of cattle, and 3 swine. Crop yields included 500 bushels each of corn and oats. Three hundred pounds of butter were produced.

The 1880 census listed the James Biggins farm as having 70 tilled and 8 pasture acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,000 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $500, which included 6 horses, 7 dairy cows, 9 cattle, and 14 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 45 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, 1600 bushels of oats, 70 bushels of potatoes, 400 pounds of butter, and 10 tons of hay. In the 1880 census, the Owen Biggins farmstead reported that $300 in farm labor was hired for a total of 50 man-weeks. Only two dairy cows were present, and butter production was 200 pounds for the previous year. Other farm animals included 50 chickens. Fifty acres of Owen Biggin's land produced seven hundred bushels of corn, and twenty acres produced 1,000 bushels of oats.

After the death of James and Owen Biggins, the farmsteads in Section 29 are shown on the 1893 plat map as belonging to the James Biggins Estate. Catherine Biggins, presumably the daughter of the other James Biggins in Du Page Township, is shown on the 1909 plat map as the owner. Albert Yackley is listed on

[62] *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1900), 586.

the circa 1940 plat map. The 1966 plat map shows Harvey and Edna Boldt, owners of the farmstead through 1998.[63]



Both the Upright and Wing farmhouse (with Greek Revival details) and Raised barn on the Calkins-Laing-Reardon-Smith-Jurca farmstead (PIN 02-13-400-016) were illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873. The cow in the righthand photograph is a statue.*

Calkins–Laing–Reardon–Smith–Jurca

The farmstead at 17025 Davey Road has had numerous owners. James Calkins is shown on the 1862 plat map at the farmstead illustrated above in Section 13 of Du Page Township. James M. Calkins purchased 80 acres in Section 13 in 1848.[64] The 1850 federal population census listing for Calkins in Du Page Township lists James N., 36, born in New York State; Videlia, 29, born in Massachusetts; and children Mary, 10; Newel, 7; Julia, 6; and Ruth, 3 months, all born in Illinois. Also listed is Ezra Calkins, 21, presumably a brother or relative of James, and also born in New York. The Agricultural Schedules of the census list the Calkins farm as having 60 improved acres and 30 wooded or pasturage acres. Livestock included six dairy cows and six head of cattle. Crop yields included 300 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of corn, and 550 bushels of oats. Dairy production included 400 pounds of butter and 200 pounds of cheese. James M. Calkins was also listed in the *Will County Directory for 1859–60.*

The 1873 plat map shows S.H. Laing as the farm's owner. Twenty years later, the Du Page Township plat map indicates that Thomas Reardon owned the farmstead. The 1880 federal census listed the Reardon farm as having 40 tilled and 40 untilled acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,000 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $500, which included 4 horses, 5 dairy

[63] *Will County & Plat Book: Will County, Illinois* (Joliet, Illinois: Rockford Map Publishers, Inc., 1998). The 1998 plat map lists Harvey and Pearl Boldt.
[64] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database

cows, 10 cattle, and 7 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was 80 bushels of wheat, 75 bushels of rye, 300 bushels of corn, 250 bushels of oats, 5 bushels of potatoes, 500 pounds of butter, and 20 tons of hay. The farmstead remained in the Reardon family through at least 1940. The most recent owners have been P. and A. Jurca.

One of the greatest discoveries during the survey of Du Page Township was the Des Plaines River valley farmhouse on the Bennett-Clifford-Ketchum-Heeg-Peabody-Hullett farmstead (02-24-102-045). The site is now operated by a religious foundation.

Bennett–Clifford–Ketchum–Heeg–Peabody–Hullett

The farm and limestone farmhouse in Section 24 of Du Page Township has passed through many owners. The 1862 plat map shows L. Clifford as property holder at this location. However, L. Clifford had purchased 160 acres in Section 11, not Section 24, in 1842, meaning that he may have acquired the farmstead Section 24 between 1842 and 1862 and may not be the original builder. (A search of the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database revealed that the property had been originally purchased by Samuel C. Bennett in 1835.) The 1850 federal population census lists Leander Clifford, 30, farmer; Jeanette, 37; and Ellena, 69. Also listed at this location was Ernest Gise, 30, a farm laborer from Hanover, Germany; and Nicholas Ambrosin, 22, also a farm laborer from Germany.

On the 1873 plat map, Levi Ketchum is listed as owning this farm plot. On the 1870 federal census, the Levi Ketchum farm is listed as having 120 improved acres and 30 woodland acres. A total of $250, including the value of board, was paid in outside laborer wages. Livestock included 3 horses, 2 mules, and 20 dairy cows.

The 1893 plat map listed Franklin Heeg as the owner of the land formerly known as the L. Clifford farm. The 1880 federal census listed the Heeg farm as having 40 tilled and 32 untilled acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $3,000 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $300, which included 2 horses, 4 dairy cows, 3 cattle, and 4 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was 20 bushels of wheat, 300 bushels of corn, 900 bushels of oats, 40 bushels of potatoes, 10 bushels of apples, 400 pounds of butter, and 8 tons of hay. The *Will County Farmers' Directory* of 1918 lists Frank Heeg with five children (these included Frank, Samuel, and Edith; the other

two are not named). He had lived in Will County since 1866. Frank Heeg Jr., born in 1880, was married to Elizabeth Seiler, the couple having two children: Catherine and Bernard. Frank Jr. managed the rental of his father's 152 acres.

Although the plat maps for 1893 and 1909 show the Heeg farmstead as being only 30 acres, much more land is indicated by the 1918. This is shown by the circa 1940 plat map, when S. Peabody is shown as the owner. The tract of land extended into Section 23 to the west. By 1966, the plat map shows that the Peabody land had been subdivided, with the limestone farmhouse owned by M. and K. Hullett. Hulletts have been the owners of the farmhouse to the present.

Also present on the Clifford-Ketchum-Heeg-Peabody-Hullett farmstead is this wood frame farmhouse with Greed Revival detailing. Unfortunately, the structure is in only fair to poor condition and has been altered for use as a garage.

Dyer–Rathbun–Mather–Hageman–Scholz

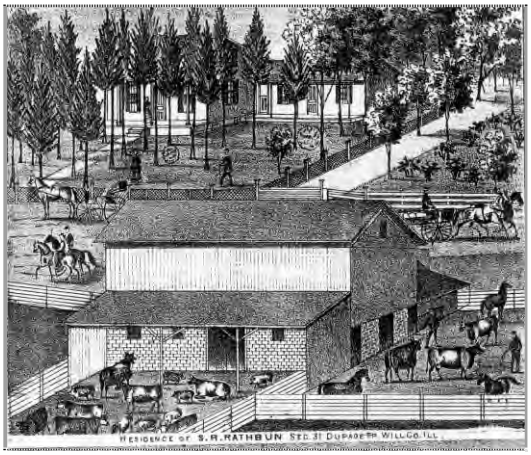
The endangered farmstead in the northwest quarter section of Section 31 has belonged to numerous farming families. George R. Dyer is shown on the plat map from 1862, and he and his family is listed in the 1850 and 1860 federal censuses. Dyer had emigrated from Vermont in 1834 and remained in Chicago and Milwaukee for seven years. During this period, he helped to organize the Wisconsin Territory, and later assisted in the survey of the Fox River when it was planned to utilize it as a feeder for the Illinois and Michigan Canal.[65] George R. Dyer is recorded as purchasing a total of 164.87 acres in Section 31 of Du Page Township on 11 September 1848.[66]

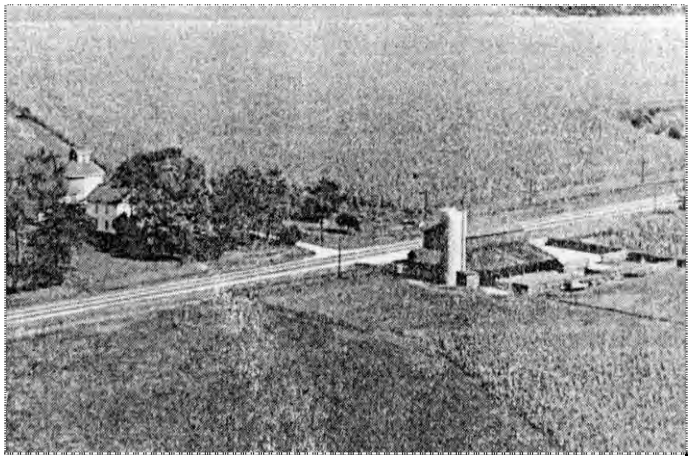
In 1850, G.R. Dyer's household consisted of himself, 37, born in Vermont; wife Elizabeth H., 32, born in New Hampshire; and children Belvidere (called Belle in the 1860 census), 8; George D., 5; Susan O., 3; and David B., 1, all born in Illinois. Workers on his farm included laborers Thomas Leggott, 25, born in England; and Henry Eaton, 21, born in Vermont; and helper Winnefred Nonan, 18, born in Ireland. The 1850 census listed the Dyer farm as 180 improved and 30 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $3,000 and $180 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $1,100, which included 9 horses, 1dairy cows, 4 working oxen, and 15 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 600 bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of corn, 500 bushels of oats, 25 pounds of wool, 30 bushels of potatoes, 100 pounds of butter, 18 tons of hay, and 2 bushels of other grass seed. Dyer served a term as Will County sheriff, and lived in Joliet during this period.[67]

---

[65] Woodruff, *History of Will County*, 675.
[66] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.
[67] Arris Architects and Planners [Michael A. Lambert, principal author], *Dyer–Rathbun Farm, Bolingbrook, Illinois.* October 1997, 4.

The population census from 1860 lists additional children Elizabeth, 8; and Ida M., 6. Also living on the farmstead were Daniel H. Dyer, 63; and Philanda Dyer, 55, both born in Vermont. The Agricultural Schedules of the 1860 census listed the Dyer farm as 184 improved and 10 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $9,000 and $600 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $2,500, which included 12 horses, 48 dairy cows, 6 cattle, and 15 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 300 bushels of wheat, 1500 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of potatoes, 75 pounds of butter, and 30 tons of hay. As listed for the next farmstead site, Dyer owned a second farm in Section 32 by 1862. During the Civil War, George R. Dyer attained the rank of Captain in the Union army. He moved to Joliet at the end of the war, and was described in the 1878 *History of Will County* as being "a little eccentric, witty, jolly as a companion," and "a defender of the rights of man" and a committed Abolitionist.[68]





The farmhouse on the Dyer-Rathbun-Mather-Hageman-Scholz farmstead (PIN 02-31-100-003) was illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873, shown at top left. However, several additions were made to the structure after the 1870s, including the main gabled portion with the Victorian style brackets. The aerial photograph at top right dates from the early 1950s before the barn and farmyard were demolished during the construction of the northbound lane of Interstate 55* (This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26 (1955)).*

[68] Woodruff, *History of Will County*, 675.

The farm was purchased by Saxon R. Rathbun in 1868, who arrived in the region with his family in that year. Rathbun was born in 1805 in Marcellus, Onondaga County, New York, and married Maria Lander in 1827. Of the couple's fourteen children, ten lived to adulthood: Volentine, William, Permelia, Bela, Sabrina, Mary, Ester, Alvin, and Charles (another son, Hiram, was killed in 1863 while fighting in the Civil War). S.R. Rathbun had arrived in Illinois in 1845 and settled in Wheatland Township the following year. After farming there for 20 years, he moved to Lake County. He returned to Will County two years later, settling in Du Page Township on the Dyer farm.

The 1873 and 1893 plat maps show W.R.(William) Rathbun and C.W. (Charles) Rathbun, respectively, as owners of the farm. (S.R. Rathbun continued to reside there until his death in 1886.) The *Combination Atlas Map of Will County* of 1873 shows an illustration of the Rathbun farm, which was arranged with farmhouse on the northwest side of Chicago–Oswego Road and the barn and farmyard on the southeast side. (For additional information on the development of the structures on the Rathbun farm during this period, see Arris Architects and Planners, *Dyer–Rathbun Farm, Bolingbrook, Illinois,* pages 7 and 8, which dates the large barn south of Chicago–Oswego Road as prior to 1873 and the large gabled portion of the house as built after 1873 but prior to 1885.)

Jonathan Mather is listed as the farm's owner on the 1909 plat map, which also indicates that the farmstead on the land was the residence of E.T. Mather. (Other Mather family members are discussed in connection to Wheatland Township in the rural survey report of that region.) By 1940 the farmstead was owned by Fred Hageman, who retained it until the 1980s when Fred Scholz is listed as the owner. However, the farm became a tenant property, with the owners no longer in residence, during the 1940s.[69]

The Dyer–Rathbun–Mather–Hageman–Scholz farmstead has a double bin concrete block corn crib, shown at left, with a center elevator and equipment bay.

[69] Arris Architects and Planners, *Dyer–Rathbun Farm, Bolingbrook, Illinois,* 9.

The orientation of the Dyer–Rathbun–Mather–Hageman–Scholz farmstead, shown above from the southwest is significant. While most farms are located on the orthogonal road system found in most Midwestern and western states, the Dyer–Rathbun–Mather–Hageman–Scholz farmstead is located on Chicago Road, which runs southwest-northeast between Chicago and Plainfield. The farm now lies on a frontage road constructed along Interstate 55, which subsumed the route of Chicago Road (later called Route 66). The original route of Chicago Road is now the southbound lane of I-55.

Shown above left is the farmhouse on the Dyer-Dixon-Mather-Haley farmstead (PIN 02-32-200-020). It appears to be a Gabled Ell type house; however, because of the shallow one-room depth of the side wing, was probably an Upright and Wind type house that was expanded. Shown above right is the crib barn on the property, with the remnants of a limestone wall in the foreground.

Dyer–Dixon–Mather–Haley

George R. Dyer, discussed above, is shown on the 1862 plat map as the owner of the farm in the northern half of Section 32. By the time of the 1873 plat mapping, the land had been divided, with two-thirds of it (including the farmstead) going to George Dixon. George Dixon was born in Lincolnshire, England, on 25 December 1832. He emigrated to America in 1851 and was a farm laborer for G. R. Dyer for six years. After working as a laborer for a Mr. Ray another six years, when he moved to 320 acres of timber land in

Michigan that he had purchased 1856. After a fire destroyed much of the timber, he returned to England. In 1869 he returned to the Du Page Township region and purchased a portion of the G.R. Dyer farm.

The 1870 federal census lists the George Dixon farm as being 160 acres of improved land with a total value of $6,500. Eight dairy cows were present, as well as 12 head of cattle. However, no other information for the farmstead is recorded. In the 1880 federal census, George Dixon's farm is listed as being 40 tilled acres and 120 pasturage acres. Seven dairy cows and 18 head of other cattle were present. Crop yields included 800 bushels of corn from 18 acres and 700 bushels of oats from 12 acres. George Dixon is shown as owner on the 1893 plat map, although his total land holdings were 240 acres.

The 1909 plat map shows A.F. Mather as the farm's owner, followed by R.O. Mather in the 1940s. Although Robert M. Haley is shown as owner on the 1966 plat maps, the Union Trust National Bank and Standard National Bank and Trust are shown as trustees in recent years.

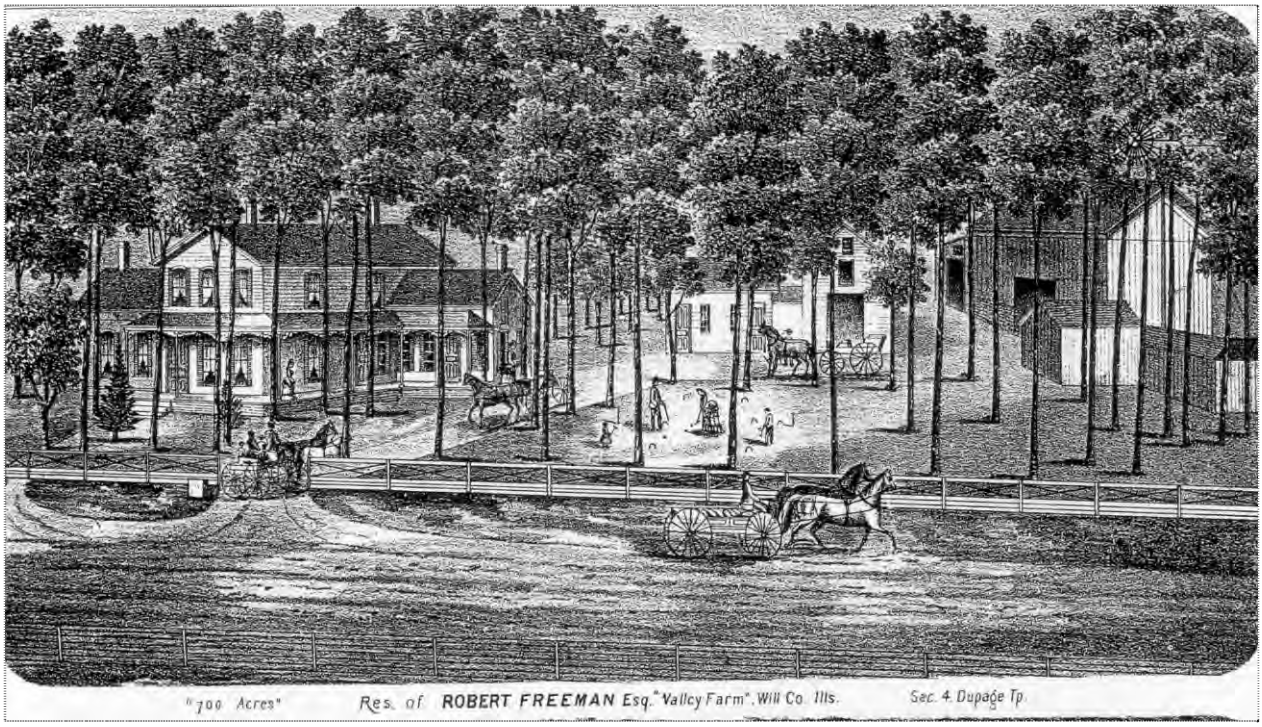
The farmhouse on the Eaton-Weinhold-Schafer-Schoenherr farmstead on Ferguson Road is an Gabled Ell type house, although the rear wing is a much simpler construct. Reportedly, the original building beneath the clapboard siding is a log structure. The house and farmstead site is now owned by a religious-affiliated organization and reportedly will be demolished in the future to build a church building.

Eaton–Weinhold–Schafer–Schoenherr

As recorded in the 1850 federal census, Henry Eaton must have been a recent arrival to Illinois, being a 21 year old from Vermont and working as a laborer on the George Dyer farm. By 1860, the census recorded Henry Eaton as being an independent farmer, with wife Elizabeth, 25; son Charles, 2; and parents E.D. and Harriet Eaton (57 and 60, respectively) from Vermont. The Agricultural Schedules from the 1860 federal census recorded the Eaton farm as being 100 acres of improved land and 17 acres of woodland. Eaton had 10 horses, 5 dairy cows, and 14 head of cattle.

The 1873 plat map indicates that the land had changed ownership from H.C. Eaton to Richard Weinhold. The 1880 census listed the Weinhold farm as having 160 tilled and 50 pasture acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $8,800 and $200, respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $1,200, which included 9 horses, 10 dairy cows, 4 cattle, and 7 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 100 bushels of wheat, 1500 bushels of corn, 800 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of rye, 100 bushels of potatoes, 1200 pounds of butter, 30 tons of hay, and 5 bushels of clover seed.

H. Weinhold is shown as the owner of the farm on the 1893 plat map. The 1909 plat map shows Simon Schafer as the owner, followed by William Shafer on the circa 1940 map, Schafer and Schoedherr on the 1966 map, and other Schoenherr family members on the plat maps since that time.



Shown above is the Freeman–Wescott–Garrette farmstead as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873.*

Freeman–Wescott–Garrette

The Robert Freeman farmhouse on Royce Road in Section 3 is one of the most architecturally intact structures of its type in the township. Born in 1809, Robert Freeman had come to Chicago in 1833, working as a carpenter for ten years. He performed his civic duty in the newly incorporated town by serving in the fire department. Within a few years Freeman was investing money in land, and became interested in the Du Page Township area later in the decade. In 1841, he married Adeline Boardman, daughter of Harry Boardman. The couple moved from Chicago to 48 acres adjoining her parents' land in Du Page Township in 1843. The first portion of the farmhouse on Royce Road dates from this period.[70]

The 1850 federal population census lists Robert Freeman, 38; his wife Adeline, 29; and children Harry, 8; Emma, 4; and Jane, 11 months. Laborers on the farm included "Augustus F.," 25, tanner and courier; and Joel Plant, 19. The Agricultural Schedules recorded the Freeman farm as 326 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $6,000 and $250, respectively. The farm had livestock valued at approximately $800, which included 7 horses, 6 dairy cows, 2 working oxen, 10

[70] Manuscript of Mabel Garrette, collection of the Martin-Mitchell Mansion at Naper Settlement, Naperville, Illinois, as referenced in Towsley, "Pioneer Triumvirate on East Branch of Du Page," part II.

cattle, 156 sheep, and 9 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was 700 bushels of wheat, 1,500 bushels of corn, 700 bushels of oats, 125 bushels of potatoes, $5 worth of orchard produce, 400 pounds of butter, 200 pounds of cheese, 100 tons of hay, 6 bushels of other grass seed, and 200 pounds of beeswax and honey. Freeman is recorded as purchasing land twice in the 1850s. In 1851 he bought 80 acres in Section 21. He purchased an additional 80 acres, also in Section 21, in 1854.[71]

Adeline Boardman Freeman died in 1859. Robert Freeman remarried two years later, to Cynthia Dewey, and subsequently enlarged the farmhouse. The 1860 census lists the Freeman farm as being 200 improved acres and 150 unimproved acres. Sixty head of cattle were kept on the farm. Crop yields included 150 bushels of wheat, 200 bushels of corn, and 1,500 bushels of oats. Seven hundred pounds of butter were produced from 7 dairy cows.

November 1860 was the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. Freeman wrote the following letter to the President-elect, offering to be part of the entourage to escort him to Washington, D.C.:[72]

> Du Page Will Co. Jan 21 1861
>
> Hon. Abraham Lincoln
> President Elect of the United States
>
> Dear Sir,
>
> Permit me one of the people to address you on the all important subject of the day; the preservation of the Union.
>
> And the first step (so far as we Republicans are concerned) is your peaceable inauguration. Peaceable if it can be done so, forcibly if must be.
>
> God grant that it be may be done peaceably.
>
> But in this crisis, and especially at this juncture of the affair it becomes us to be prepared for the worst. And as I honestly believe there mite [sic] be strong opposition to your taking the Chair, I honestly tender my services in any way you require thus, and would be most happy to be one of the number who will escort you to Washington and see that you are placed in position as President.
>
> And to his end, and the preservation of this glorious Union I <u>pledge Life, Property and Sacred Honor</u>.
>
> Hoping to hear from you, or any one you may select to act in this matter, I remain your obedient servant.
>
> R. Freeman
>
> P.S.
>
> As you are not known [to] me personally, not perhaps even by reputation I will just say that I am a man of some property and the reputation (when known) of being a positive man, knowing to some extent my duty, and always willing to do it.
>
> I also have the honor of belonging to the Mounted Wid[e]-A-Wakes Lincoln Rangers of the Town of Du Page Will County.
>
> For further particulars please call on your friend and mine the Honorable Fred Mather, member of the legislature of this District.
>
> R. Freeman
>
> […]If you think proper to answer please direct Naperville, Ill.

Freeman is reported to have used the two front rooms of the farmhouse as granaries when he anticipated a sharp rise in prices with the start of hostilities between the north and south.[73]

---

[71] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.
[72] Image of the original manuscript available for viewing on the internet at the website of the Library of Congress.
[73] Towsley, "Pioneer Triumvirate on East Branch of Du Page," part II.

The 1870 census indicates the Freeman farm contained 450 improved and 270 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $46,300 and $750 respectively. A total of $1,652 was paid in wages including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $3,746, which included 22 horses, 14 dairy cows, 6 cattle, and 31 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 550 bushels of spring wheat, 5,000 bushels of corn, 3,700 bushels of oats, 20 bushels of peas and beans, 400 bushels of potatoes, $250 of produce, 2500 pounds of butter, and 200 tons of hay.

The Will County Business Directory published in the *Combination Atlas Map of Will County* of 1873 lists Robert Freeman as a capitalist and farmer. Freeman married again, to Frances Wescott, daughter of Seth Wescott (Cynthia Dewey Freeman had died in 1866). In 1876, Robert and Frances moved to a brick residence at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Brainard Street in Naperville.

One of the most intact houses architecturally in Du Page Township is on the Freeman-Wescott-Garrette farmstead (PIN 02-04-200-011). The house appears to have been rehabilitated within the last decade. Compared with the illustration on the following page, the house retains the same overall form as in the 1870s.

The top illustration is from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873. The although the existing driveway is located on the opposite side of the house today, the farmyard illustrated above remains defined by one farm support structure, a Quonset-style implement shed shown above. (The aerial photograph at left is from* This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26, 1955.) Shown at left is an enlarged view of the Quonset-style implement shed. The concrete slab shown below is located near the front of the site opposite the house and is inscribed with the date July 1934. The function of the slab is not known.*

The Upright and Wing type farmhouse, Three-bay Threshing barn with concrete stave silo, and concrete milk house on the Lambert farmstead (02-32-400-008) are shown above.

Lambert

The Lambert farmstead located in Section 32 off of Romeo Road has been in the same family since before 1870. The earliest record identified during the rural survey, the plat map of 1862, lists the owner only as "J.M.," but on the Agricultural Schedules of the 1870 census John Lambert was listed as the proprietor of the farm. Originally from Ireland, he moved to Will County in 1854. The described farm is smaller than

others in the area containing only 50 improved acres with an estimated value of the farm and the farming implements as $1,600 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $400 including 4 horses, 2 dairy cows, 3 cattle, and 2 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was predominately oats (200 bushels), corn (100 bushels), and potatoes (100 bushels), and to a lesser extent spring wheat (23 bushels), and hay (15 tons). The farm produced 150 pounds of butter. The 1873 plat map listed the owner of this farmstead as J. Lambert.

The 1880 agricultural schedule continues to list John Lambert as the owner of the farm. It is listed as a 50 acre farm including 40 tilled acres, 5 acres of permanent meadows, and 5 acres of woodland. The farm and farming implements are listed as having a values of $2,500 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $400 including 2 horses, 6 dairy cows, 1 cattle, and 7 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was predominately oats (700 bushels), and corn (700 bushels), and to a lesser extent potatoes (80 bushels) and hay (5 tons). The farm dramatically increased its butter production to 600 pounds.

The 1893 Historical Directory of Will County, Illinois continues to lists John Lambert as the owner of the farm located in Section 32, but the plat map of the same year indicates the farm had decreased slightly in size with the sale of a small plot on the north side of the lot to D. Ward. The 1909 plat map indicates that John Lambert increased the size of his farm to 80 acres by purchasing the land from D. Ward immediately to the east of the original section.

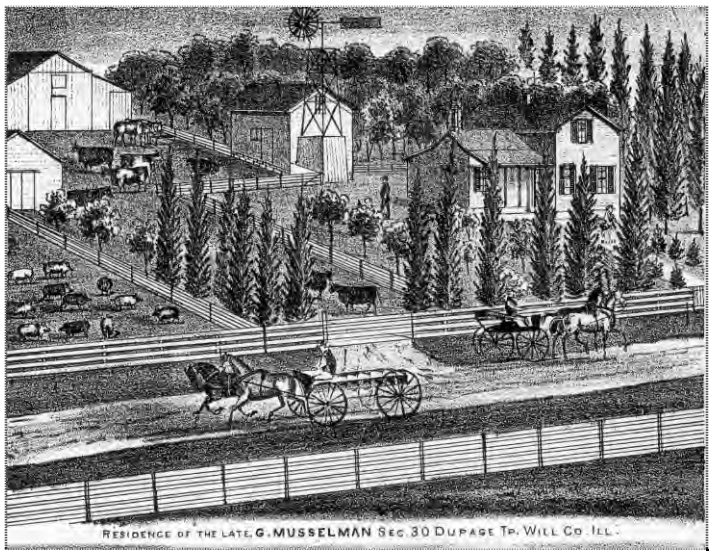
The map from the 1940s indicates that Mrs. Thomas Lambert owned the entire plot formerly owned by John Lambert. An additional 10 acres to the north of the area purchased from D. Ward was added to the lot, this plot bought from Edward Ward. The land then passed to Mrs. Frances Lambert by 1976, as illustrated by the map of that year. The 1985 map indicates that the land again changed ownership. Loretta Lambert now owned 60 acres of the original farm. The land on the east part of the property, previously belonging to D. Ward and Edward Ward, was sold to the Village of Romeoville. In 1998, Loretta Lambert was still listed as the owner of the farm.

Musselman

The Musselman farm, located in Section 30, was the home to Gidding and Barbara Musselman according to the 1860 Federal Census. Gidding, a 45 year old farmer from Pennsylvania, and his wife Barbara, a 30 year old woman from Germany, had three children: Josephine, aged 6; Jacob, aged 3; and Lathan, aged 1 year.

The 1860 Agricultural Schedule of the Federal Census describes the Musselman farm and production. It was 180 improved and 5 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $4,950 and $100 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $400 including 4 horses, 3 dairy cows, 12 cattle, and 6 swine. The main crops of the farm included wheat (200 bushels), oats (200 bushels),and to a lesser extent corn (100 Bushels), potatoes (50 bushels), hay (5 tons), and clover seed (6 bushels). The farm also produced 280 pounds of butter.

The 1873 map indicates the farm is still owned by the Musselman family. The 1893 plat map and Historical Directory of Will County indicate that the farm was now operated by Gidding Mussleman's son, Jacob. The 1880 Agricultural Schedule lists Jacob Musselman as renting 183 tilled and 60 untilled acres of land. The farm and machinery had estimated values of $10,000 and $300 respectively, and livestock valued at $400 included 7 horses, 14 dairy cows, 15 cattle, and 20 swine. The main crops of the farm included oats (3,300 bushels),and corn (3,400 Bushels), and to a lesser extent potatoes (50 bushels), hay (40 tons), and apples (50 bushels). The farm also produced 1,300 pounds of butter.



The Musselman farmstead (02-30-100-008) was illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873, which shows that the layout of the farm has changed little. The farmhouse is an Upright and Wing that has had several modifications, including the addition of a second floor to the wing and the raising of the roof over the main gable "upright."*

The 1893 map still listed J. E. Musselman as the owner of the farm. The 1909 map indicates that the land was sold to Albert Corbin, and a school was built on the northwest corner of the property. By the 1940s, the property was owned by Mrs. Joseph Sonntag. The 1966 map indicates the land was sold again, this time the owner was Miriam Young; by this time, the school had been moved. The 1985 map indicates the land again changed hands, this time Mary A. Kelley is now listed as the owner. The 1998 map continues to list her as the owner.

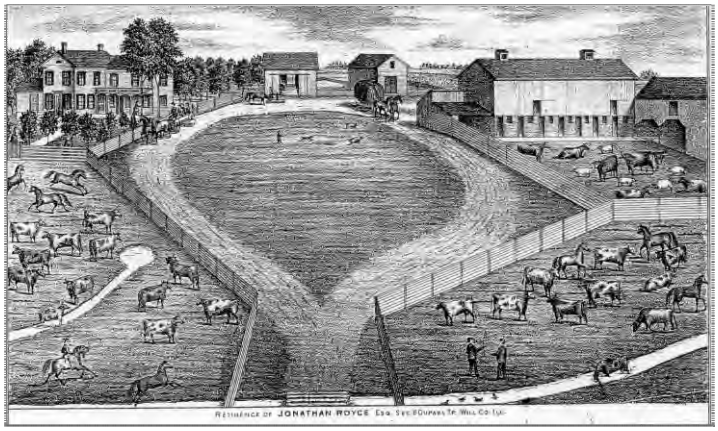
Royce-McDonald

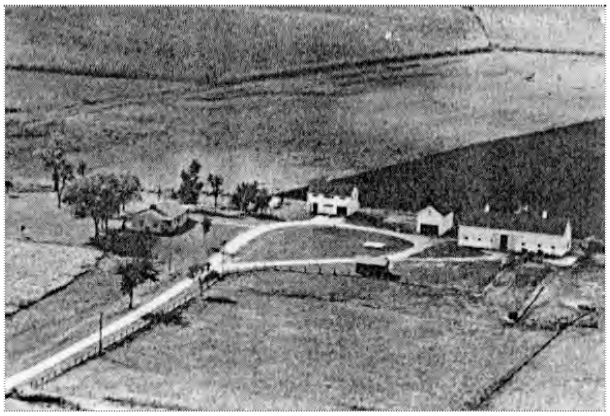
Born on 9 May 1822, Jonathan Royce came to Illinois with his family when he was 13. Abner Royce, Jonathan's father, first had a farmstead in what is now Section 5 along the east branch of the Du Page River.[74] In 1847, Jonathan Royce obtained the farm of Israel Blodgett located today in Section 6 of Du Page Township. It has nearly the same property lines shown on the 1998 plat map as in the 1862 plat map.[75] The 1850 census indicates that Jonathan and Polly Royce from New Hampshire natives with three children: Hypsabeth, aged 34; Jonathan Jr., aged 27; and Abner, aged 20. A German laborer also lived on the farm in 1850. The Agricultural Schedule of the same year describe a farm with 200 cultivated acres and 286 acres of prairie and woodlands. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $5,500 and $200 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $530 including 2 horses, 7 dairy cows, 2 working oxen, 35 cattle, and 6 swine. The major crops of the Royce's farm were wheat (400 bushels), corn (300 bushels), oats (300 Bushels), and hay (50 tons). The farm also produced 150 pounds of butter.

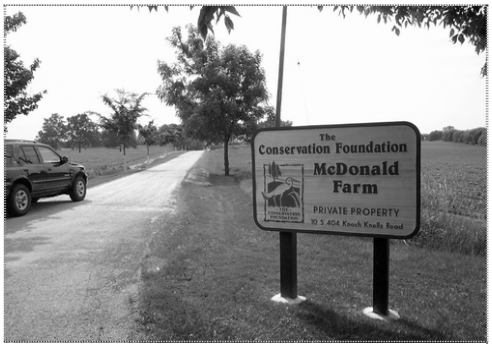
[74] Abner Royce also purchased land totaling 160 acres Sections 17, 23, and 28 of Wheatland Township between 1844 and 1847 (Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database).

[75] Jonathan Royce purchased land totaling 335.52 acres across Sections 4, 5, and 6 in Du Page Township in 1839. Royce also purchased 814.46 acres, likely as an investment, in Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, and 25 of Wheatland Township between 1839 and 1844. Royce also purchased land in the name of his children Charlotte, Hypsabeth, and Jonathan Jr. in Wheatland Township in 1844 and 1845. (Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.)

Jonathan Royce married Sarah A. Mather (born in Essex County, New York) on 18 October 1853. Royce and his wife had five children: Jonathan, George, Asa, Maria, and Emma. He and his family moved to Naperville for some three years in the mid-1870s, but then returned to his farmstead. His total land holdings, as stated in the 1878 history of Will County, was 500 acres with the raising of cattle the primary focus of his agricultural pursuits. His farmstead was "the best improved and his buildings the most substantial of any of his entire neighborhood."[76]







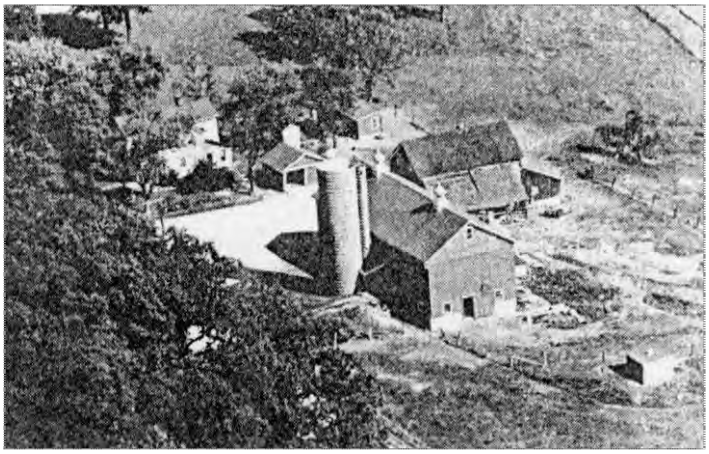
The series of photographs and illustrations above show the intact state of the Royce-McDonald farmstead (02-06-300-007). Although the original farmhouse is no longer present, having been replaced with a ranch style house sometime prior to the 1950s, the orientation of the buildings remains mostly the same. The site is now operated by a private non-profit foundation. (Top illustration from Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873); aerial view middle left from* This is Will County, Illinois, *(1955).)*

[76] Woodruff, *History of Will County*, 898.

By the 1860 federal census, Jonathan and Polly were no longer listed as occupants of the Royce farmstead and were instead listed as occupants of Abner Royce's farmstead just west of their farm. Jonathan Royce died 14 December 1863 at the age of 83 and is buried in Boardman Cemetery. Polly Royce died 25 April 25 1875 at the age of 90 and is buried in Boardman Cemetery. The farm had transferred ownership to Jonathon Royce Jr., now aged 38, who was married to Sara A., aged 25, also from New York. They had two daughters: Maria and Emma, ages 5 and 3 respectively.

The 1870 federal census indicates that the Royce farm had substantially increased the amount of farmed land and its total output. It now contained 400 improved acres and 40 acres of prairie and woodlands. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements had also increased substantially and were now $23,000 and $1,000 respectively. A total of $1,000 was paid in wages including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $1,700 which included the addition of 175 sheep (producing 750 pounds of wool), as well as, 6 horses, 8 dairy cows, 20 cattle, and 24 swine. The main crops the preceding year included corn (1,200 bushels), and oats (1,500 bushels), and to a lesser degree wheat (220 bushels), potatoes (100 bushels), produce ($10), and hay (200 tons). The farm's butter production also increased over 3 times to 500 pounds. The business directory included in the *Combination Atlas Map of Will County* (1873) notes Jonathon Royce's farm expansion and describes him as a supervisor and stock raiser.

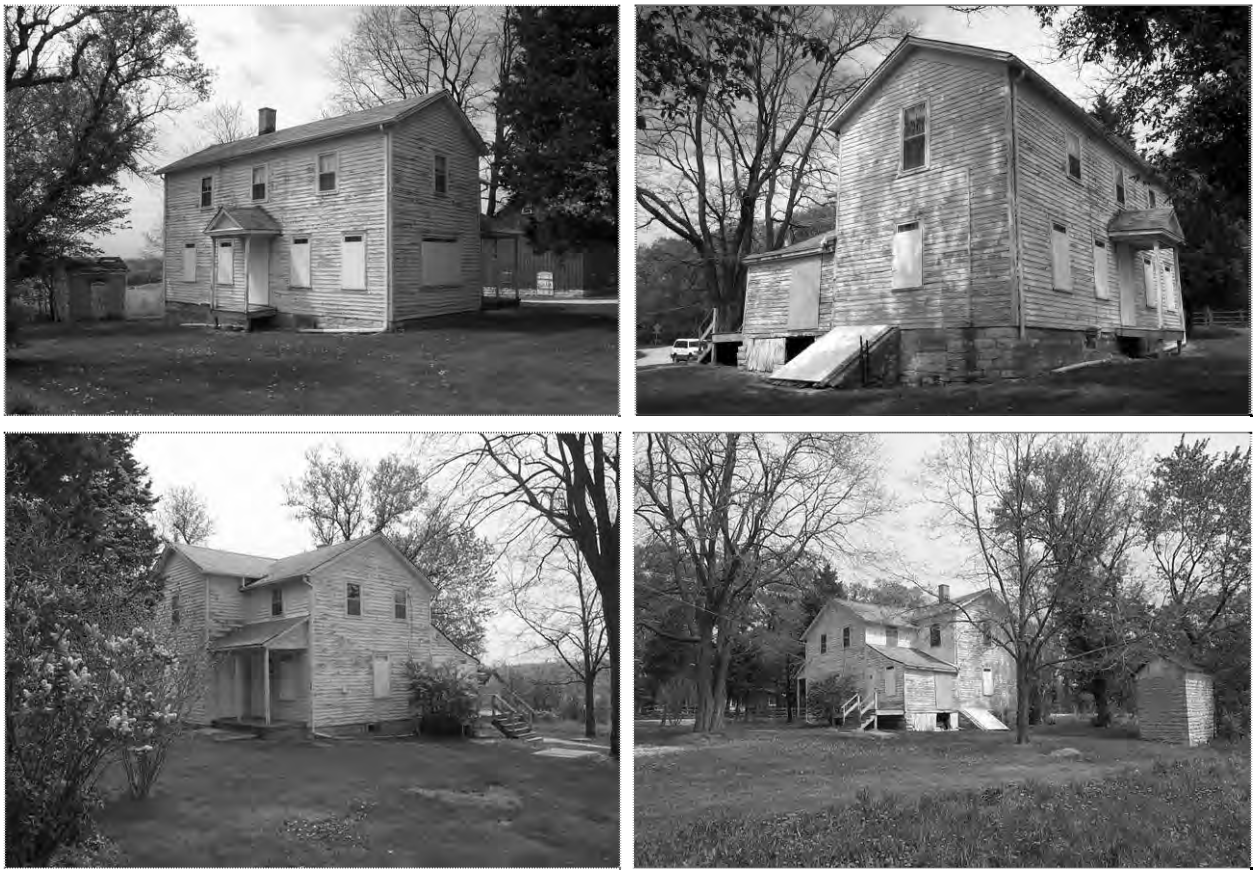
That plat map still refers to Jonathan Royce Jr. as the owner of the same plot of land through the 1909 census. By the 1940s, the plat map indicates the land was sold to Miller and covered the same boundaries. By 1966 the land was owned by Sterling McDonald. The 1985 plat map indicates the land had passed to Lenore McDonald with the same boundaries. The 1998 plat map indicates the portion bordering the Du Page River as no longer part of the property.



The aerial view of the Whallon-Eichelberger-Konicek farmstead (PIN 02-04-300-004) dates from the early 1950s when the farm was still in operation. At the time of survey most of the buildings shown in this view were extant, including the farmhouse, smokehouse, barn and silo, and crib barn. (This is Will County, Illinois, *The American Aerial County History Series, No. 26 (1955).)*

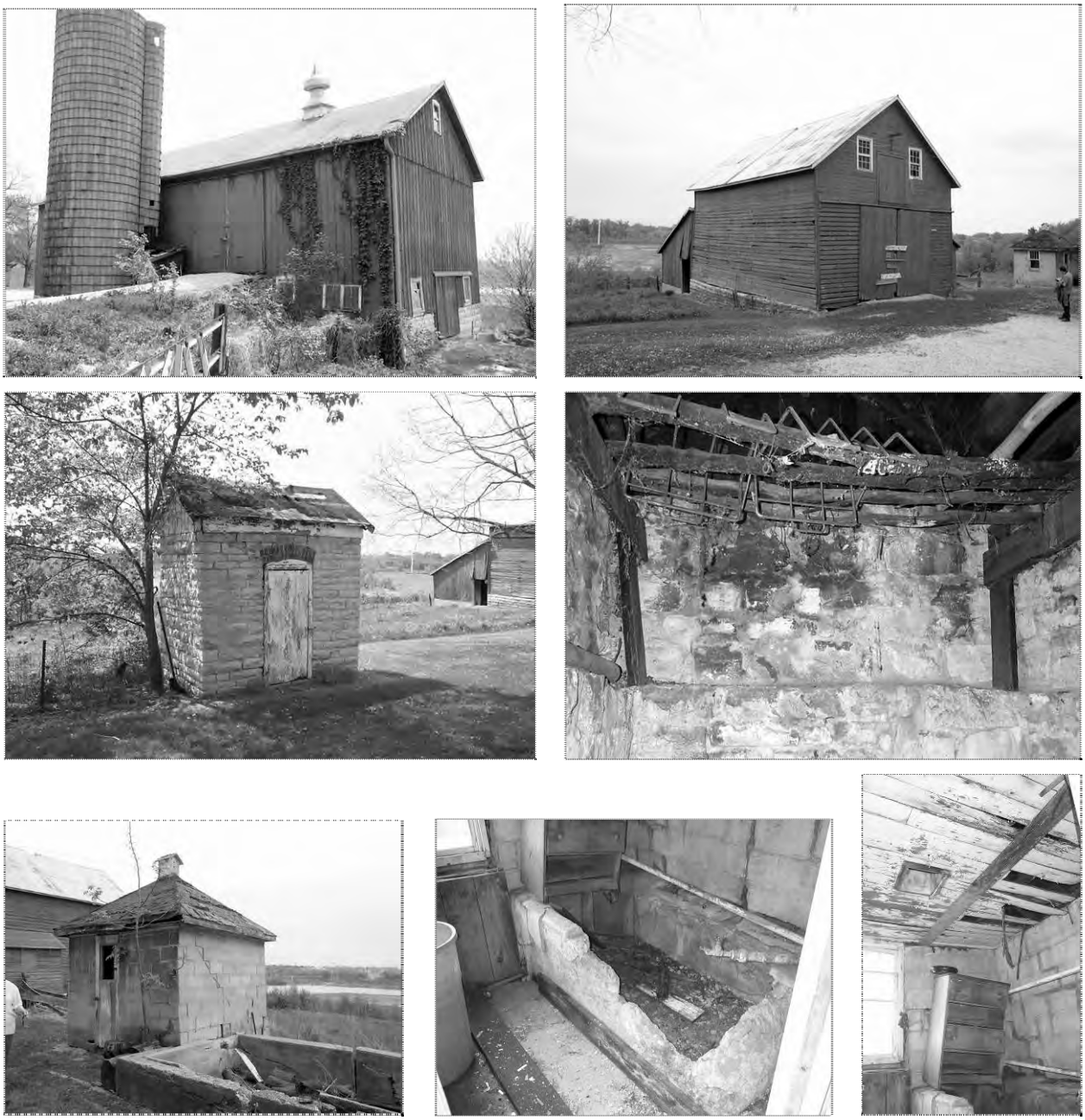
Whallon-Eichelberger-Konicek

The 1862 map of Will County indicates that the land in the southwest quadrant of Section 4 was owned by S. Whallon. The 1860 federal census record Samuel Whallon as a 78 year old farmer from New Jersey, and his wife Louisa as a 50 year old woman from Connecticut. The 1873 map lists S. Whallon as the owner of the same plot of land. The 1870 census describes the Whallon farm as containing 113 improved and 13 unimproved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $5,000 and $300 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $550 which included 4 horses, 5 dairy cows, 3 cattle, and 3 swine. The output of the farm for the preceding year was 600 bushels of potatoes, 300 bushels of corn, 250 bushels of oats, 200 bushels of spring wheat, 100 bushels of barley, $30 of produce, and 20 tons of hay. The farm also produced 400 pounds of butter. Samuel Whallon died 15 June 1873 at the age of 94, just before Louisa Whallon who died 22 June 1873 at the age of 63. They were both buried at Boardman's Cemetery.



Shown above are views of the farmhouse on the Whallon-Eichelberger-Konicek farmstead. The structure was built as a one-room deep I-house type, with later additions as what was originally the rear of the house but functionally was the most used entrance since it faced the farmyard.

The 1893 map shows the land is now owned by Urias Eichelberger. The total lot incorporates over half of Section 4 including half the southwest quadrant and nearly all of the northeast and southeast quadrants. This includes the entire lot formerly owned by S. Whallon, plus nearly all of the land formerly owned by Horace Boardman. The map also shows Boardman's Cemetery in the northeast quadrant east of Boardman's property. The 1909 map shows that Eichelberger owned the property with the same boundaries. The 1940s map indicates the center portion of the southern half of Section 4 was owned by Urias Eichelberger, but the land in the northwest quadrant and some of the land in the southwest quadrant had been sold to Ralph Garrett. This area includes the cemetery. The 1966 map shows a larger 192 acre property belonging to John Konicek. The property includes the entire property formerly owned by Eichelberger, but also includes the entire southeast corner of Section 4 formerly owned by R. Garrett. This area was part of the original plot owned by Eichelberger in 1909. The 1976 map does not indicate an owner for the plot of land making up the southern portion of Section 6, but it does show two buildings along Royce Road. The 1985 and 1990 map list John Konicek Jr. as the owner of a small portion of the property in the southwest quadrant of Section 4. The property is currently part of the Will County Forest Preserve.



The Whallon-Eichelberger-Konicek farmstead has several support structures in various states of condition. Top left is a Raised barn with concrete stave silo. Top right is a crib barn with a shed roof addition on the south side. The Du Page River valley limestone smokehouse, where hanging timbers are still present on the interior. The concrete block milkhouse contains a concrete tub for keeping milk cool and a painted wood board ceiling. The choice of concrete block and interior finish materials was meant to contribute to the cleanliness in the farm's dairy operations.

Non-contributing or Non-existing Farmsteads in Du Page Township

Because of the degree of development that has occurred in Du Page Township, and the amount of rural properties that have been lost since the 1988 survey, it is worthwhile to look at a selected number of additional sites that date back to the early period of settlement. For this section, farmsteads illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County from 1873 but no longer extant are discussed in the following section. In addition to this number, farmstead sites in Du Page Township that were surveyed but "non-contributing" (either in poor condition at present or lacking sufficient integrity to be recognizable as a farmstead) are discussed as well. These sites were traced from the earliest available plat maps to the most recent.[77]

The farmstead shown above, photographed in late November 2001, was to be demolished soon afterwards. It had been the Anderson-Nair-Blum-Bauman-Gerten farmstead, with an Upright and Wing type farmhouse that probably dates from the 1870s. The property was located in incorporated Bolingbrook at the time of survey.

Barber–Breitweiser

The man for whom Barber's Corners was named was John Barber, who came to Fort Dearborn in 1832 and settled east branch of the Du Page River that same year. John Barber served as a soldier in the Black Hawk War. John Barber is recorded as having purchased 80 acres in Section 2, southwest quadrant, in 1835.[78] His son Franklin E. Barber was born 25 August 1835 in Du Page Township. The 1850 federal population census lists John Barber, 54; his wife Emma, 55; and twin sons Franklin and Francis, 14. The Agricultural Schedules from that year's census list Barber's farmstead as having 150 acres of improved land and 80 acres of woodland and prairie. Livestock included 8 dairy cows, 50 sheep (producing 150 pounds of wool), and 7 swine. Barber's major crop was oats (500 bushels), with lesser amounts of corn and wheat (300 bushels each). The 1860 federal census lists the Barber farm as being 160 improved acres and 76 acres of woodland and prairie acres. Sheep were no longer kept at the farm. Eight dairy cows were present. Oat production was still at 500 bushels, and corn production at 400 bushels. Three hundred pounds of butter were produced.

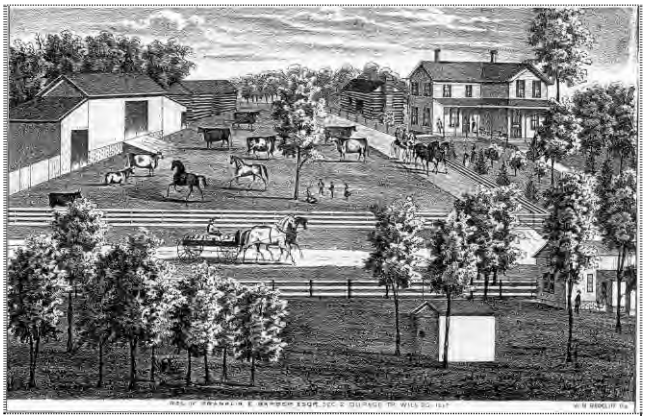
Franklin Barber married Adelaide Volentine, a widow with a daughter (Mary), on 2 September 1867. They had five children of their own: Emma, Etta, Edward, Jessie, and one other daughter. By 1870, the farm was listed under Frank (Franklin) Barber. The census that year records it to be 170 improved acres and 50 acres of woodland. There were now 14 dairy cows as well as 12 other head of cattle, and oat production had

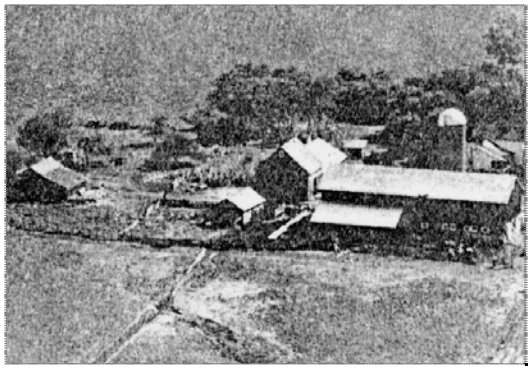
[77] In developing this section of the report, it was noted the farmsteads that are no longer extant or are extant but non-contributing were more likely to pass through the ownership of several more families, or were subdivided more frequently, than those that are still extant and are either locally an/or nationally contributing or significant. This may indicate that farmsteads that did not remain in families for several generations, or farmsteads that were not subdivided into smaller and, depending on the conditions of the time, poorly sized units economically, had better chances to remain intact. However, additional research would be necessary to confirm this conclusion.

[78] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database. John Barber also purchased 80 acres in Section 26 of Lockport Township at the same time as his land in Du Page Township.

increased to 1,200 bushels. Corn production was 250 bushels. Butter production was up to 700 pounds annually. Franklin Barber continued to maintain his father John's farmstead after the latter's death in 1876. Frank E. Barber is listed on the 1880 federal census as having a 180 acre farm (100 acres tilled and 80 acres pasturage). Wages in 1879 for outside labor were $400 with a total of 75 man-weeks for the year. Twenty-five dairy cattle were present, producing 8,000 gallons of milk. Thirty acres of corn produced 800 bushels and 25 acres of oats produced 1,200 bushels. Franklin Barber's farm supplied milk to the cheese factory in operation near his residence.

The 1893 plat map lists J. Breitweiser[79] as the owner of the Barber farmstead. The *Will County Farmers' Directory* of 1918 lists John Breitwieser as married to Amanda Kaylor, the two having five children. He owned his 212 acre farm (named "Oak Knoll Farm") and had lived in the county since 1886. Breitwieser kept dairy cattle, Duroc Jersey hogs, and chickens. The same directory lists him as having a wood silo. Joseph Breitweiser is listed on the plat map from 1966. The land appears to have been developed in the late 1960s or early 1970s, since it is shown incorporated into Bolingbrook by 1976.





The source of the name Barber's Corners was the farmstead of John Barber, later owned by John Breitweiser (also a well known farming family of northwest Will County). The illustration above left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873) shows the main barn perpendicular to the road that became Route 53. The aerial view above right from* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955) shows the farmstead from the northwest. The site of the farmstead was developed by the mid-1970s at the latest.*

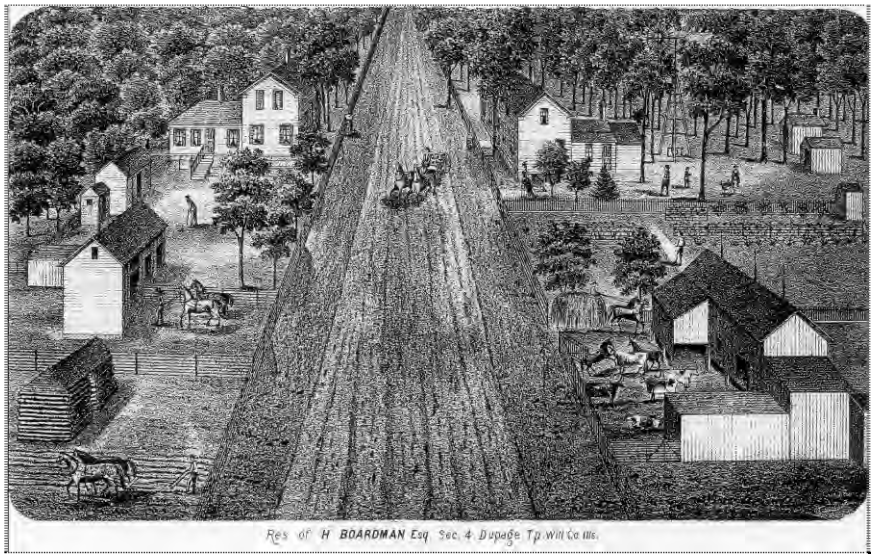
Boardman

Harry Boardman was born circa 1793 in Vermont. Among Harry Boardman's children were Horace and Franklin. Franklin later settled in Section 13 of Wheatland Township. Harry Boardman's son Horace was born in Orleans County, New York, on 25 July 1819. Harry Boardman brought his family west to Illinois in August 1831, settling land in that would later be Section 3 of Du Page Township. An example of the hospitality extended by early settlers is shown in how Boardman gave shelter to Deacon Goodrich and his family for several months in 1832.[80] Goodrich settled in Du Page County once his own first homestead was constructed there.[81]

Harry Boardman is recorded as having purchased 317.89 acres of land in Section 4 of Du Page Township, with another 80 acres purchased in Section 14 the same year. In 1844 and 1845, he purchased an additional 160 acres in Section 13 and 120 acres in Section 24.[82] Boardman is reported to have purchased Will

[79] Breitweisers were owners of a farmstead in Section 17 of Wheatland Township until recently. That property was owned by a development company at the time of survey in 1999.
[80] Towsley, "Pioneer Triumvirate on East Branch of Du Page," part I.
[81] Goodrich became one of the early prominent citizens of Lisle Township of Du Page County, as discussed in Appendix D (Newton Bateman and Paul Selby, editors, *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Du Page County* (Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company, 1913), 682).
[82] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database.

County's first McCormick Reaper, in 1846. Boardman was acquainted with Cyrus Hall McCormick in New York (from which he had emigrated in 1831), and purchased a mechanical reaper with the provision that McCormick would compensate Boardman if the equipment failed to perform as promised. However, the new farm implement delivered more than satisfactory results.[83]



The Boardmans had farmhouses facing each other on what later became Royce Road (Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873)).*

Horace lived at home until he was 28 years old, when he moved to Grand Traverse Bay, Michigan, to work in the lumber industry. Horace returned to Illinois in 1853, and moved again, this time to Wisconsin, in 1864. He returned to the family homestead in 1867. Horace Boardman married three times, first in 1843 to Laura Farr from New York State. The couple had two daughters: Ellen and Maria. Laura died in 1846. Horace married his second wife, Emily Cowles, also from New York State, in 1849. Horace and Emily had three children: James, Abby, and Walker. After Emily's death in 1862, Horace Boardman married again, in 1863, to the widowed Mrs. Isabella Lewis, with whom he had six more children: George, Fannie, Frank, Harry, Edith, and Charles Roy. Harry and Horace Boardman worked their farms together to raise crops to feed their large numbers of dairy cows. Harry Boardman died 20 May 1877.[84]

The farmsteads had passed to Urias Eichelberger by the time of the 1893 plat mapping, followed by John Konicek and R.D. Garrette by the late 1940s. (Sometime after the farm passed from the Boardman family to others, it may have been rented out since both Konicek and Garette had farmsteads nearby that are still intact today.) It is not clear from available documentation when the Boardman farmsteads were demolished.

Johnson–Eaton–George

The farmstead formerly located in the southeastern portion of Section 32, fronting on Ferguson Road (119th Street), was significant as it was the site of the Ron George Round Barn, an experimental round barn developed at the University of Illinois. The barn was constructed sometime in 1912 or 1913 by farmer Frank Eaton, whose half-sister, Alice, was married to University of Illinois agriculture professor Wilbur Fraser. Fraser was developing and promoting the use of round barns, and succeeded in convincing his brother-in-law to erect what was an experimental barn types. The structure, named for Ron George, grandson of Frank

[83] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 529–30. The 1846 purchase date predates the initiation of McCormick's large-scale manufacture of the reapers in Chicago by one year.
[84] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 895–6.

Eaton and resident on the farmstead until the 1970s, was documented in 1998 for the Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey (Illinois HABS No. WI-1998-4). The following year the barn was dismantled and placed in storage. The Village of Bolingbrook plans to reassemble and restore the barn on a site as part of a historic farm exhibit.[85]

The Ron George Round Barn (Illinois HABS No. WI-1998-4), located on Ferguson Road, is shown at left shortly before it was dismantled. (Photograph by Anthony May, Anthony May Photography.)

Although most of the buildings on the Dagen-Ward-Weber farmstead lack historical integrity, the summer kitchen shown at left is relatively intact from the exterior.

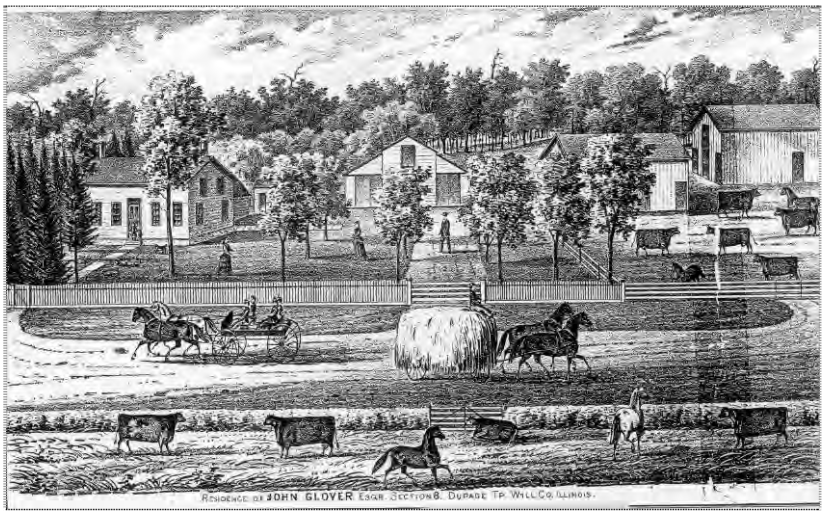
Dagen–Ward–Weber

The farmstead in the southwestern quarter section of Section 32 is shown on the 1862 plat map as belonging to Malachi Dagen, who is listed in the 1860 federal population census as being 40 years old and born in Ireland. The Agricultural Schedules for that year's federal census list the Dagen farm as having 80 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $1,000 and $50 respectively. The farm had livestock valued at $200, which included 3 horses, 1 dairy cow, 1 head of cattle, and 2 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 100 bushels of wheat, 150 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of oats, 30 pounds of potatoes, 100 pounds of butter, and 15 tons of hay.

The 1870 federal census indicates that the Dagen farm contained 160 improved and 8 woodland acres. The estimated values of the farm and the farming implements were $6,000 and $150 respectively. A total of $75 was paid in wages including the cost of board. The farm had livestock valued at $550, which included 3 horses, 5 dairy cows, 5 cattle, and 5 swine. The output of the farms for the preceding year was 50 bushels of

[85] Illinois Historic American Buildings Survey, Ron George Round Barn, Illinois HABS No. WI-1998-4.

spring wheat, 200 bushels of corn, 1,000 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of potatoes, 200 pounds of butter, and 30 tons of hay. The 1893 plat map shows that Daniel Ward was the owner of the farm. William Ward is shown on the 1909 plat map as owner. The *Will County Farmers' Directory* of 1918 lists William D. Ward as married to Agnes Erickson with two children, Marvin and Florence. Plat maps since circa 1940 show members of the Weber family as owners. At the time of survey, the farmstead lacked sufficient integrity to be considered contributing or significant to rural heritage in the region, although the summer kitchen shown above is still mostly intact.



The Glover farm, formerly located in Section 8 of Du Page Township on Boughton Road, was illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873.*

Glover

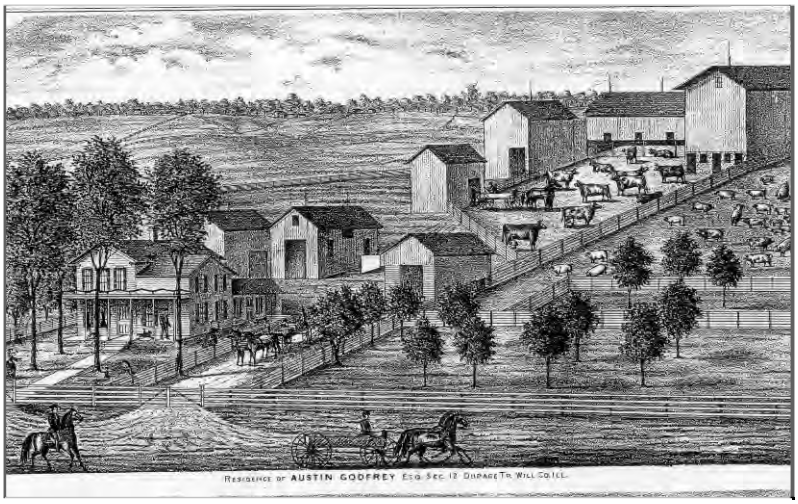
The 1850 census describes John Glover as 34 year old farmer from England; his wife Harriet, aged 24; William, aged 2; and Samuel Harrington, a 20 year old laborer from England. The farm was located in the west half of Section 8. The 1860 census listed the Glover farm as being 360 improved acres. The estimated values of the farm, farming implements, and livestock, were $10,000, $900, and $2,000 respectively. The 1873 Will County Business directory lists John Glover as a stock raiser, dairyman, and farmer. The 1880 census describes the farm as being nearly half the size of the 1860 farm, with 180 tilled and 60 untilled acres. The estimated values of the farm, farming implements, and livestock, were $15,000, $300, and $1,800 respectively. The 1893 map indicates the land had been divided with William Glover owning the east half of the farm; Sarah E. Glover and Mary E. Murr each owned half of the west side of the farm. By the 1940s, John Glover was listed as the owner of the property. By 1966, the farm site was owned by the Exchange National Bank. At the time of survey, the farmstead lacked sufficient integrity to contribute to rural heritage in the area.

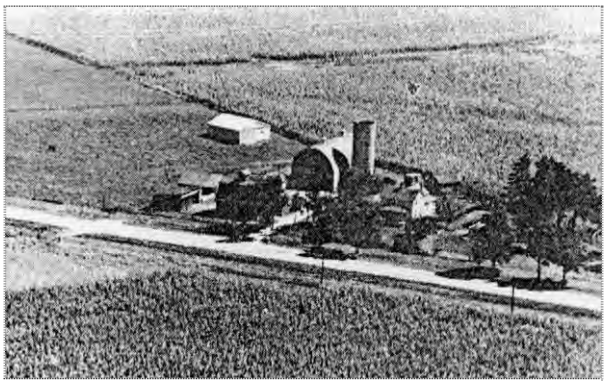
Godfrey

Austin Godfrey was born 31 August 1822 in Erie County, New York. He came west to Illinois with his parents, Henry and Kansas Godfrey, in the fall of 1833. They first settled on land that, with the creation f Will and Du Page Counties in the ensuing years, was spread across both counties. The farm was located on the stage coach line between Chicago and Ottawa and had a tavern and station for changing stage horses.[86] (The tavern is noted on the 1851 plat map shown at the beginning of Chapter III.) Henry Godfrey died in 1850. Austin's land, which he obtained from his father in 1836, was located within Will County. Austin Godfrey married twice: to Lorenia Warren, on 25 December 1847, with whom he had two

[86] This land, located in Section 12 of Du Page Township, is listed as having been purchased by Orrin Godfrey in 1835 (Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database).

children, Emma and William; and to Lucy Denton, on 24 December 1857, with whom he had seven children, Herbert, Howard, Abbie, Carrie, Arthur, Guy, and Roy. Austin Godfrey is listed as purchasing a total of 120 acres in Du Page Township in 1853, although this land was in Section 1.[87] In order to allow the approximately 60 head of dairy cattle to cross road bisecting his farm, he built a tunnel under the road. Godfrey moved to Joliet in 1874 to give his children access to better schools. During this period he maintained the farm in Du Page Township, and returned there in 1876. In 1886, he bought 247 acres in





The Godfrey farm in Section 12 was one of the largest in the township, with well over 200 acres at one time. The farm remained active under Charles and Ray Elliott until the mid-1970s, when it was annexed into Bolingbrook and developed. (Illustration above of Austin Godfrey from Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois *(Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company, 1900); above right from* Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873); at right from* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955).)*

Section 28 of Lockport Township.[88] Here he built a residence, granary, and an addition to the barn. The *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois*, published in 1900, reported that the original portion of the barn was the first frame barn built in Will County. Godfrey also owned four other farms that he rented out. Austin Godfrey held public offices of Supervisor and Road Commissioner of Du Page Township.[89] By 1909, G.R. and R.S. Godfrey were listed as the owners of the farm. The 1940s map indicates the land was owned by H.A. Godfrey. In 1966, the plat map indicates the land was owned by Charles H. and Ray H. Elliott. By 1976, the property had been sold to the Centex Winston Corporation, after which the land was developed and incorporated.

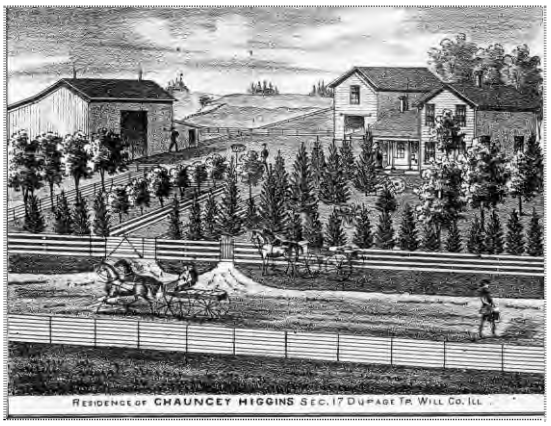
[87] Ibid.

[88] This land was later obtained by the State of Illinois for Stateville Penitentiary (now Stateville Correctional Center), constructed at the northern end of Section 28 between 1916 and 1932.

[89] Woodruff, *History of Will County, Illinois*, 896–7; *Genealogical and Biographical Record of Will County, Illinois*, 473–4.

Higgins

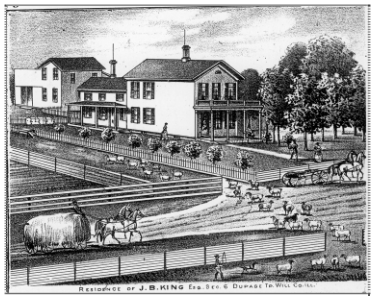
The 1862 plat map shows a triangular shaped lot in the northwest portion of Section 17 and the northeast portion of Section 18 owned by Chauncey Higgins. The 1860 federal census describes Higgins as being a 46 year old farmer from New York, and his wife Emily as 47 years old, also from New York. They had seven children, all born in Illinois. By 1914, the property was owned by James McMicken and Franklin Clow, the latter buying out the former twenty years later. Franklin Clow's three children (Caroline Collins, William Franklin Clow, and Oliver Boyd Clow) owned the land by 1968. Subsequently, the land was developed into Clow Airport. The airport, comprising 70 acres, was sold in 1998 to Mr. Joe DePaulo of Naperville. The remainder of the farmland was sold and commercially developed.



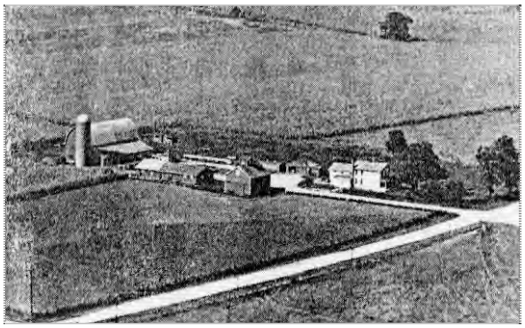
The Chauncey Higgins farmstead in Section 7 (incorrectly identified as being in Section 17 on the illustration above left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873) was located on Naperville Road south of the intersection with Boughton Road. The aerial photograph above right (courtesy of the Bolingbrook Historic Preservation Commission) shows the farmstead from the opposite side when it formed part of the Clow Airport.*

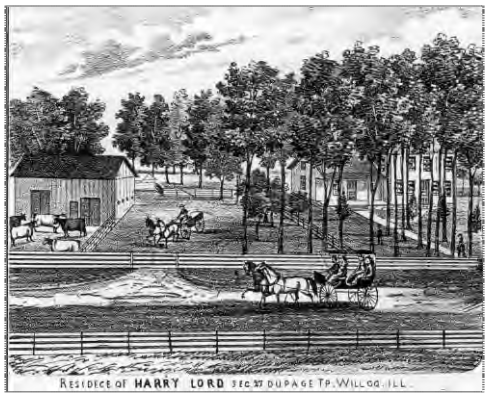
King

The 1862 map shows a triangular plot of land on the north portion of Section 6 owned by Charles B King. The 1893 map indicates the plot was plat owned by James B. King. By 1909, the land was owned by Urias Eichelberger, followed by George Eichelberger at the time of the 1940 plat map. By 1966, the land had been transferred to Donald M. Greer. In 1976, the land was owned by Levitt Residential Commercial, Inc. The land has subsequently been developed and incorporated into Naperville.



The James B. King farmstead in Section 6 was located at the northwest corner of the township. It is illustration at left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873). The Gable Front farmhouse was still extant at the time the aerial photograph at right was taken* (This is Will County, Illinois *(1955)). The site was developed in the late 1960s or early 1970s by Levitt Residential.*





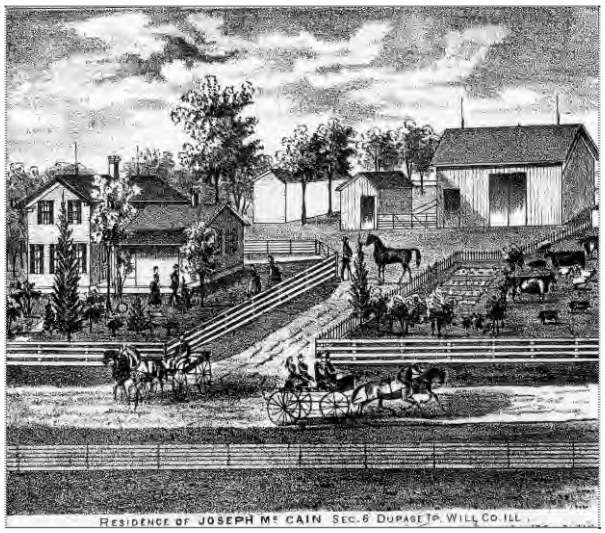
The Harry Lord farmstead in Section 27 is illustrated at left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873).*

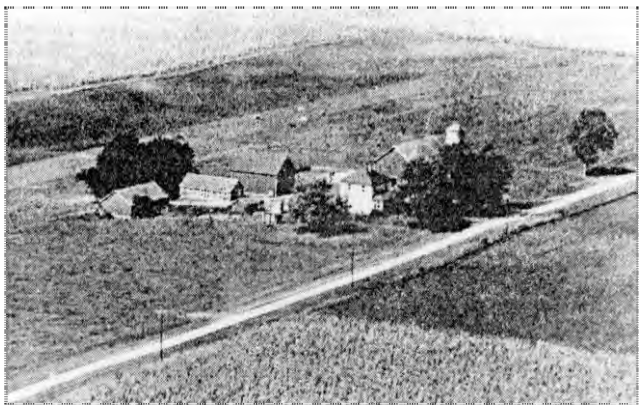
Lord

The 1850 census describes Henry Lord as a 58 year old farmer from Massachusetts. The 1862 map, shows an L-shaped farm in the northwest quadrant of Section 27 marked as owned by H. Lord. By 1893, the land was owned by Enoch Stafford.[90] By the 1940s, the land had been divided and J.L. Kennedy owned the southern portion of the land. In 1966, the land was owned by Belle Kennedy. After that date, the land was developed and incorporated.

McCain

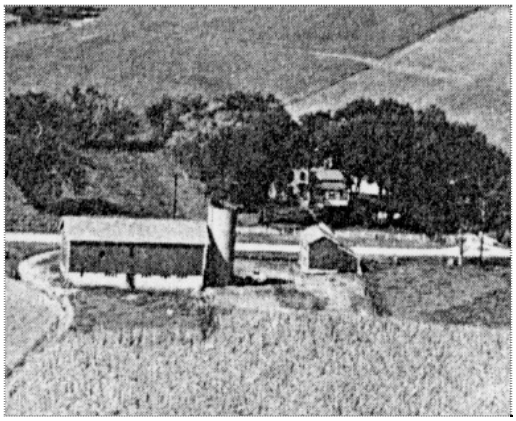
The 1850 Federal Census describes Joseph McCain as 36 years old and from New York. His farm was located in the southeast quadrant of Section 16. The 1893 plat map shows the land owned by Fred Edrn. The 1909 map lists Herman Zarn as owning the 100 acre lot. In the 1940s, the property was owned by Joe Schlumachen Jr. The 1966 map indicates the plot was owned by Earl Konicek. By 1990, the land was owned by Harris Trust and Savings, and by 1998, the land was owned by Montalband Builders, Inc.





The Joseph McCain farmstead in Section 6 is illustrated at left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873). By the time the farmstead was photographed for* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955), shown above, it was owned by Earl Konicek.*

[90] Enoch Stafford was born in Nottinghamshire, England, on 23 February 1830. When he was 21 years old, he emigrated to America, working as a farm laborer. After ten years he invested his savings in farm property, purchasing 190 acres in Du Page Township. William Stafford was born on 13 February 1856 from Enoch's first marriage with Sarah Wheat Stafford; his second marriage was to his first wife's sister, with whom he had eight more children (four survived to adulthood). William remained on his father's farm until 1890, when he joined the Du Page Creamery. By 1900, William Stafford was the largest wholesale and retail milk dealer in Joliet, providing milk and cream for the state penitentiary (now Joliet Correctional Center) as well as for many businesses.



The illustration above left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873) shows the Frank Hulett farmstead in Section 2, which was divided by the road later known as Boughton Road. Shown above right is an aerial photograph of the farmstead from* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955), when it was owned by George Steinhouse.*

Miller–Hulett

In 1862, the Estate of John Miller owned a farm on part of the southern portion of Section 2 and part of the northern portion of Section 11. The 1873 plat map indicates that the land was owned by Frank Hulett, whom the business directory of the *Combination Atlas Map of Will County* of 1873 described as a cheese maker and farmer. The 1893 plat map indicates that the land had changed hands and was now owned by Louis Seegers. By 1909, the land was owned by P. Hermann. The 1940s map indicates that the land was owned by George Steinhouse. By 1966, the owner of the land was Florence and George Steinhouse. By 1976, the land had been developed and incorporated into Bolingbrook.

Shown at left is a contemporary view of the brick farmhouse that is located on the former Overholer farmstead.

Overholser

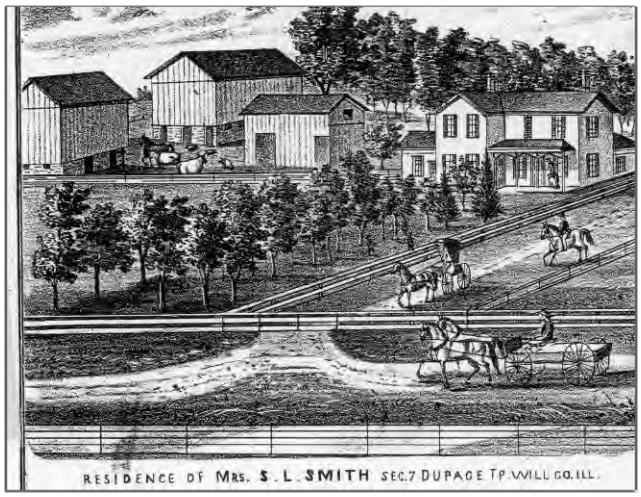
The 1862 map, indicates that a plot of land in the center of the northern portion of Section 9 was owned by S. Overholser. By 1873, the plot had been purchased by E. Stutencoth along with the plot directly to the south owned by L. Overholser. The 1893 plat map indicates that the entire plot of land was owned by Matthew Eipers. The 1909 map shows the land was owned by the Estate of Matthew Eipers. The 1940s map indicates that the 181 acre farm was owned by Louis Bushing. The 1966 map shows that the land was owned by Hattie Bushing. The 1976 map indicates that the southern portion of the land had been incorporated into Bolingbrook, but that 90 undeveloped acres in the northern portion of Section 9 remained and owned by the Hoffman Rosner Corporation. The 1985 plat map shows that the land north of Boughton Road was owned by V.P.C.O. Properties. By 1990, additional parts of the lot had been developed and incorporated, the remaining property is owned by V.P.P.I Reo, Inc. By 1998, ownership of the land had been transferred to the Oliver Hoffman Trust. At the time of survey, the farmhouse on the property was the only discernable remnant.

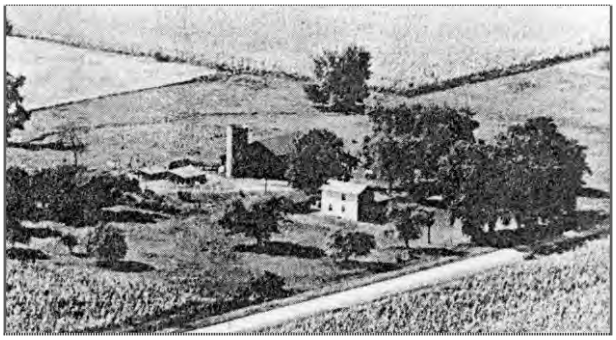
Ranck
The 1862 atlas shows the J. Ranck farm in the eastern half of the southwest quadrant of Section 28. Subsequent owners included J. Alexander and Henry Dollinger. The 1940s map shows Emma Dollinger as the property owner. The 1966 plat map lists the Chanslor-Western Company as the property owner. The 1976 map indicates that Pearl M. Thoman owned the property. Irene Schindel was listed as the owner of the property on the 1985 map. The 1998 map listed the Oak Creek Development as the owner of the plot in Section 28. At the time of survey, the farmstead lacked sufficient integrity to contribute to rural heritage in the area.

Rank
The 1862 atlas shows the S.B. Rank farm directly to the west of the J. Ranck Farm in Section 28. The 1873 map shows, M. Kelley as the owner of the property by 1873. By 1893, Michael Kelley doubled his lot size by purchasing a lot of equal size in Section 33. The 1940s map indicates the owner of the farm was Albert Hassert. The Hassert property was divided into three sections. Albert Hassert remained the owner of the northern half in Section 28. By 1985, Roy Hassert owned the northern half of the property and Irene Schindel owned the entire southern half of the property. The 1998 map lists the Roy F. Hassert Trust as the owner of the property in Section 28. At the time of survey, the farmstead lacked sufficient integrity to contribute to rural heritage in the area.

Schmid
The 1862 atlas shows two small properties in the southeast quadrant of Section 36 owned by "A.P." and Schmid. By 1873, these plots along with the area north were consolidated into a larger farmed owned by J. Smith. By 1909, Anton Kwasnicwski was listed as the owner of the 115 acre parcel of land. By the 1940s, Ignatz Kwasnicwski is listed as the owner of the land. In 1966, Max Hoehnel is listed as the owner of the 115 acres. By 1976, the Chicago Title and Trust Company had obtained ownership of the property. By 1985, the property had been subsumed into a larger plot of land to the north and west owned by the Union Oil Company of California. At the time of survey, the farmstead lacked sufficient integrity to contribute to rural heritage in the area.

Smith
The 1862 map indicates a large tract of land incorporating the eastern half of Section 7 and the western half of Section 8 as owned by R.W. Smith. The 1893 map shows the property had been subdivided, and John S. White owned the east quarter of Section 7. By 1909, the land had been further divided and S.W. Chilvers owned the portion north of Patterson Road. By the 1940s map, C.S. Chilvers owned the farm. By 1966, Walter S. Chilvers had enlarged the property to incorporate land to the east and south of the previous lot. After 1966, the land was subdivided and developed.

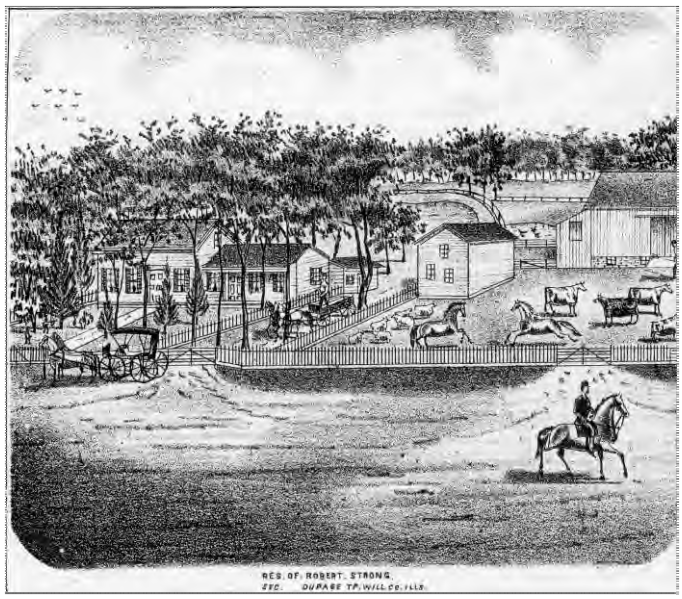




The Smith farmstead located in Sections 7 and 8 of Du Page Township is illustrated at left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873). The aerial view above from* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955) shows the farmstead when it was owned by the Chilvers family.*

Strong

According to the 1862 plat map, the eastern quarter of Section 5 was owned by Robert Strong. Strong was born 28 August 1806 in Greensboro, Vermont. When he as eight years old, his family moved to Pennsylvania; eleven years later, his father moved the family to Monroe County, New York. Robert married Caroline Willey on 12 April 1831, and the same year the couple moved west to Du Page Township, establishing their farm in Section 5. Of the couple's eleven children, four lived to adulthood: Alfred, Robert, Mary, and Albert. Robert Strong's land purchases in 1839 in Sections 5 and 6 (160 acres, respectively) is recorded in the Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database. As of 1878, Strong owned 230 acres of land. Strong held the offices of Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, and School Treasurer. The 1893 plat map shows the same 150 acres owned by A.M. Strong. Frank Huke is listed as the owner on the plat map of 1930. By the 1940s, the property was owned by the Prudential Insurance Company. The 1966 map shows that the land had been divided, with Louise Hartung owning the southern half of the property. By 1976, the Chicago Title and Trust Company owned the entire 150 acre plot. Subsequently, the entire plot was developed and incorporated into Naperville.

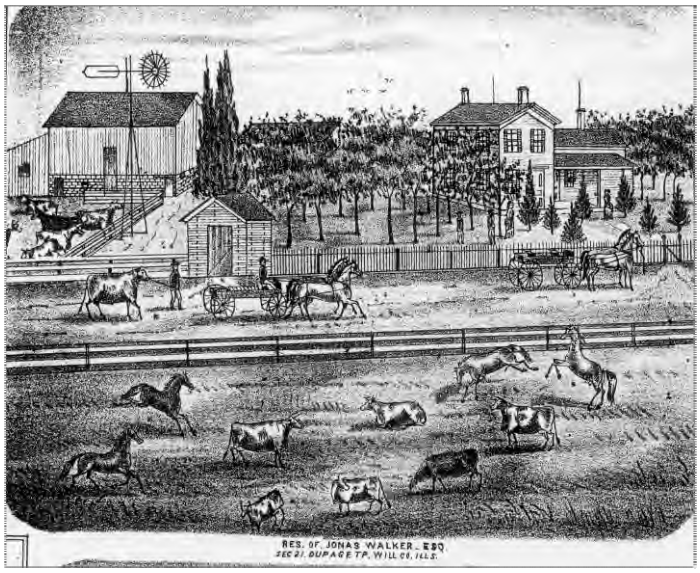


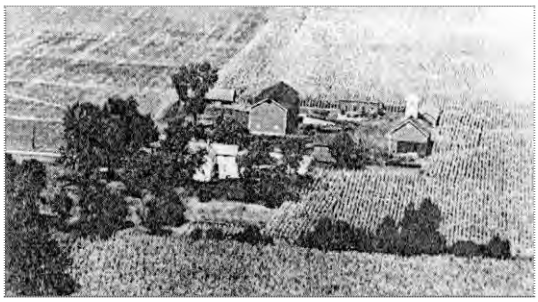
The Robert Strong farmstead in Section 5, one of the oldest in the township, is shown at left as illustrated in the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873). It was on or near this farmstead that the log structure was situated that served as the first school in the region (as well as Cook County) and the predecessor home of the First Presbyterian Church of Du Page. It is possible that the small structure tucked behind the wing of the farmhouse as illustrated at left was that log building.*

Walker

Jonas Walker was shown as the owner of the northwest quadrant of Section 21 on the 1862 plat map. Walker was born in Worcester County, Massachusetts, on 5 April 1817, the son of James and Sally Walker. Jonas Walker left home at the age of 13, and after working in farming and manufacturing, emigrated to Greene (now Jersey) County, Illinois, where he engaged in farming for six years. In the fall of 1844, he came to Lockport, Will County, to work for Hiram Norton, hauling flour to Chicago by horse cart and bringing back goods. Two years later, Walker settled a farm in Section 29 of Lockport Township later owned by S. Wilson, who is marked as owner on the 1862 plat map. Walker settled a farm in Section 16 of Lockport Township before moving to Du Page Township in 1855. His first farmstead in Du Page Township was on land one-quarter mile south of the 160 acre plot in the northwest quadrant in Section 21 that he obtained in 1859. By 1873, he had expanded his farm to an adjacent lot in Section 20.

The 1909 map shows that Peter Brook owned the land in Section 20 and 21. By the 1940s, Myrtle Brown owned the northwest quadrant of Section 21 and the Northeast Quadrant of Section 20. By 1966, Alice Fern Brown is listed as the owner of the land. The 1985 map lists the owner as "Fern Brown c/o Samuel Saxon." Walsh Gahlberg Real Estate owned the property by 1990. By 1998, the land had been developed and incorporated.

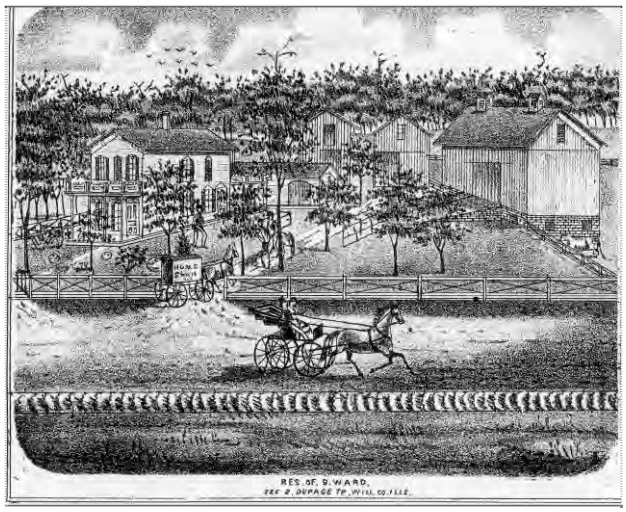




The Jonas Walker farmstead in Section 21 is shown at left from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873, and above in an aerial view from* This is Will County, Illinois *of 1955. According to historic plat maps, the farm had been owned by members of the Brown family since at least the 1930s.*

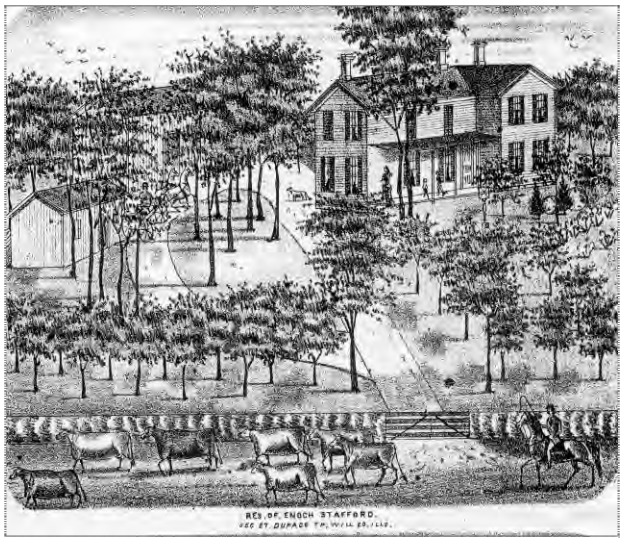
Ward

The 1862 atlas shows H. Ward as the owner of a portion of land in the southwest quadrant of Section 2, land that he had purchased in 1835.[91] S. Ward was listed as the owner of the land by 1873, and a small cemetery (now Hillcrest Cemetery) was indicated in the eastern portion of the plot. By 1893, Seraphine Rott was listed as the owned of the property. By 1909, James Clifford was listed as the property owner. N.G. Eipers owned the property by the 1940s. By 1966, W. and H. Brehm were listed as the owners. The land had been developed and incorporated by 1976.



The illustration at left of the S. Ward farmstead in Section 2 of Du Page Township is from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *of 1873.*

[91] Illinois Public Domain Land Tract Sales Database. Other members of the Ward family are discussed in connection with the intensive rural survey of Lockport Township conducted in 1999 and 2000.



Located on Joliet Road in Section 27, the two illustrations above and at left of the Willams-Stafford farmstead show how the barn and other farm buildings were roughly parallel to the street while the house was positioned on a north-south axis. (At left, from the Combination Atlas Map of Will County *(1873); above, from* This is Will County, Illinois *(1955).)*

Williams

The 1862 atlas shows T. Williams as owner of a farm in the northwest quadrant of Section 27. Thomas Williams was born in the county of Cornwall in England, emigrating to the United States in 1825. Nine years later he arrived in Chicago, moving finally to the Du Page Township area in 1836 to work on a contract for the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. After working on the canal, he accepted a contract to build 12 miles of the Galena Division of the North-Western Railway. Later in life he retired to his farm in Du Page Township. By 1873, Enoch Stafford owned the land.[92] Enoch Stafford increased the size of his farm by purchasing portions to the south by 1893. The 1909 plat map indicates two residents on Enoch Stafford's property. By the 1940s, Charles Hahn owned the 80 acres in the northwest quadrant of Section 27. Charles A. and Rose Hahn were jointly listed as the owners of the same property in 1966. Subsequently, the parcel was developed and incorporated.

[92] Background information on Enoch Stafford is given in a footnote to the entry above for the Lord farmstead.

Sod Farming. *One of the most active "agricultural" activities in Wheatland Township and western Du Page Township is sod farming, which gradually strips away the topsoil from the land. The illustration shown above is located at the southeast corner of Heggs Road and Tamarack Road (127th Street), where a schoolhouse was once located at the Tamarack rural crossroads settlement.*