



BUREAU COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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May - June 2018

MAY PRESENTATION

"Today's DAR and You" will be the topic for the May 24th meeting of the Bureau County Genealogical Society. Linda Sigmon Byrd, volunteer field genealogist and member of the Princeton Daughters of the American Revolution chapter, will give the presentation. Linda will discuss what qualifies as a patriot and how to conduct a search.



DAR
Daughters of the
American Revolution®

The Daughters of the American Revolution is a nonprofit, nonpolitical women's volunteer service organization dedicated to promoting

historic preservation, education and patriotism. Please join us.

JUNE PRESENTATION

Michael John Neill will return to BCGS on June 28th and his topic will be "Organizing Online Research." When a five-minute search does not locate an individual in a database, it is time to organize your online research process so that it can be evaluated and modified if information is not located. Through several examples we will see ways to structure effective searches, search processes, and search analysis.



Mr. Neill has written on genealogical research topics since the late 1980's and has lectured at local, regional,

and national conferences. He has a blog, <http://rootdig.genealogytipoftheday.com/>

His presentations are down-to-earth, informative, full of real examples and practical. Please join us at our Library.

Our presentations are held on the fourth Thursday of the month from January through October at 7:00 pm at our library at 629 S. Main St. in Princeton. There is also a combined November/December meeting which is held the first Thursday following Thanksgiving. This year it will be on November 29th.

The meetings are open to our members as well as the public. If you have a friend or relative who might be interested, please invite them.

BOOK SALE

The Bureau County Genealogical Society receives donations of books and other material on local history and topics of interest to genealogical researchers. We are extremely grateful for these donations. However, we occasionally receive duplicates of books, pamphlets, etc. so we have decided to share these with our members for a donation to the Society.

The books will be available at the BCGS Family History Library at our meeting on May 24th. If you are unable to attend that meeting, please stop by the library during our regular hours which are 10:00 to 3:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

BCGS WEBSITE

Have you recently tried to visit the BCGS website but have been unable to access it? If so, we sincerely apologize. However, our website is currently being revised and updated to take advantage of current technology and make it more user-friendly. The new site is <bcgenealogy.org>.

Also, please feel free to call the Society at 815-879-3133 or stop by to visit us. You can also reach us at bureaucounty@gmail.com.

FEBRUARY MEETING

At the February 22nd meeting of BCGS our speaker was Bill Kemp from the McLean County Museum of History on the topic of "The 'Lost Speech' Found: Abraham Lincoln and the Founding of the Illinois Republican Party."

On May 29, 1856, there was a state convention of the Anti-Nebraska Party at Major's Hall in Bloomington which is considered to be the founding of the Republican Party in Illinois. There were approximately 250 to 350 delegates from five major constituencies including the Northern Whigs, the Abolitionists, German Immigrants, Anti-Slavery-Democrats and the "Know Nothings." The primary issue of the convention was opposition to the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854 which allowed for the extension of slavery into the Western Territories. The Act relied on popular sovereignty in each territory to determine whether slavery would be legal. The Act led to bloody conflicts

At the time Lincoln was not overtly espousing abolitionism although he believed that enslavement was wrong and its extension to new territories should be halted. Once it was halted, he believed slavery where it currently existed should be phased out gradually.

Owen Lovejoy, from Princeton, was in attendance. Although he was a radical abolitionist, he toned down his speech to avoid antagonizing the more moderate delegates.

Lincoln's speech was attended by more than 1,100 and is widely considered to be his greatest speech by those in attendance. However, he did not provide any notes nor transcript of the speech. Kemp believes that the speech was "lost" because Lincoln became carried away with his rhetoric and his supporters asked the reporters to tamp it down. The end of the speech probably included the statement "We won't go out of

the union and you shan't."

MARCH PRESENTATION

The BCGS March meeting was an interactive meeting celebrating National Women's History Month by encouraging the attendees to share stories of their female ancestors. Eleven people told their stories. Each was of a notable woman in their family tree and provided information on an inspiring female. Although all of the stories were wonderful, a few stood out including:

1. Esther Tracy's 5th great grandmother who gave birth on board the ship coming to America and was then quarantined for two weeks aboard the vessel after docking because of disease on board the vessel.
2. Hope Browning's Aunt Helen who was photographed with the Liberty Bell in 1917 during its cross-country journey to raise \$2 billion dollars by the sale of war bonds to support WW1.
3. Toma Newburn's mother who was known for her frugality and even saved the water she used to boil vegetables.
4. Carol McGee's grandmother inspired her interest in genealogy with her collection of clearly labeled mementoes and photographs.
5. Phyllis Sims' Grandmother Moses (Phyllis really had a Grandma Moses) who traveled from Iowa to Oklahoma by covered wagon and lived in a sod house.
6. Elaine Newell's mother-in-law who raised 14 children and was pregnant with the youngest at the same time that three of her sons were fighting in WWII.

The meeting was inspiring and although National Women's History Month is past, we would encourage each of our members to reflect on your ancestors. Which member of your family inspires you? Reflect on your female ancestors for Mother's Day or the men in your family for Father's Day.

ACQUISITIONS

First Presbyterian Church - Princeton, Illinois - Its First Century 1837 - 1937 by Jean L. Palmer and George V. Bohman Donated by Hope Browning.

The "First Presbyterian Church of Princeton, Illinois 1937 - 1962 by Jean Palmer Small.
Donated by Hope Browning.

Telephone Directory for Princeton (and Others) - July 1952. Donated by Jim Carlson

Justus Stevens - In Memoriam. Donated by Jim Carlson

Carmack's Guide to Copyright & Contracts. A Primer for Genealogists, Writers & Researchers by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG. Donated by Carol McGee

The Bryant Record 1895 - 1898. Being the Proceedings of the Bryant Association at its First Four Annual Reunions held at Princeton, IL. Published by The Bryant Association, 1898. Donated by David & Judith Peterson.

Prairie Farmer's Directory. Bureau County Illinois - 1921 on Computer Disc. Donated by Dennis Block.

Poscharsky Family History compiled by Kathy (Poscharsky) Pounds. Donated by Jim Carlson

A History of the SAPP Family compiled by J. Gooden Sapp and H. W. Stanley. (With The Continuation of Sapp/Hilt Family History). Donated by Jim Carlson.

Merchants, Tradesmen and Manufacturers Financial Condition for Bureau County Illinois - January 1914. Donated by Jim Carlson.

Prairie Farmers Farm Directory 1916-1921. Donated by Jim Carlson.

Per Gustaf "P. G." Johnson and his wife, Anna Sophia Swanson of Falkoping, Sweden and Princeton, Bureau Co., IL. (Includes 4 generation of his Swedish ancestors and many of his Descendants. Aneita Johnson Hedges, compiler. Donated by Roger Swanson.

Princeton City Directory - September 1984. Donated by Esther Tracy.

[NOTE: In the actual newsletter, this space contains the names and addresses of new members of BCGS. For privacy reasons we have chosen to not include these in this online version.]

CONFERENCES

The McHenry County IL Genealogical Society will hold their Summer Genealogy Conference on Saturday, July 7, 2018 from 8 am to 3:30 pm at the McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, IL. Featured speakers will include Judy Russell, LisaAnn Alzo, MFA, David Rencher and Curt B. Witcher. For further information email Claudia Conroy at registration@mcigs.org or visit their website at www.mcigs.org/conference.

The National Genealogical Society is having a guided research trip to the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives and Max Kade Institute which are two of the nation's important repositories. The trip is scheduled for August 6 to 10. Additional information is available by emailing it@ngsgenealogy.org.

The 2018 New York State Family History conference will be held on September 13 to 15 in Tarrytown, NY. Further information is available at nysfhc.org.

SOCIETY UPDATE

Our website has been removed from its former domain and can be viewed with the new address of <bcgenealogy.org> or by making a search for "bureau county il + genealogy". It still needs some changes to the site so that it can be seen on all devices, so please be patient.

We want to thank Warren Taylor for photographing the gravestones in the three newest sections of the Sheffield Cemetery so we can update our records. Jill Van Acker and Kani Bopes have also been helping us on this large project of comparing caretaker records with the inscriptions on the gravestones. There are over 3,000 burials in this cemetery.

Joan Ecklund has completed her project of abstracting information from the Bureau County Republican about the men from our county who served in World War II. Bob Lord has also abstracted information about those who served in World War I. There are many good articles and large pictures of many of the men. If you have ancestors who served in these wars, you may give us their names, birth and death years, and a stamped self-addressed envelope and we will send you copies of the newspaper articles for each person. Our regular research policy applies. Keep in mind it does not take long to copy these articles since they are now indexed.

Spring is here so we hope you will consider visiting our society. If you are unable to travel, let us know if we can help you with your research.

Carol Mc Gee

ISSUE ORDER TO SHUT DOWN LAST MINE IN VALLEY

(Bureau County Tribune, 13 April 1928)

The last mine of the Spring Valley Coal company, the number 3 mine west of Spring Valley, will be sealed and abandoned, according to information received last week. Preparations are being made by the company to sell the machinery and seal the openings of all the

mines.

Not only will the closing of the mine be a heavy monetary loss to the Spring Valley Coal company, but it will also affect many workers. There are a number of old men, who are unable to secure employment elsewhere and are permanently out of work with the abandoning of the mining industry in Spring Valley. There were also several good paying jobs discontinued which materially aided the business of the town.

The Spring Valley Coal company was organized in 1882. Nos. 1 and 2 mines were sunk in 1884 and the following year No. 3 mine was built. In less than two years Spring Valley had a population of 4,000 people. Mining was always the principal industry until a few years ago and the city prospered and grew.

The passing of the mining industry will not seriously affect the prosperity of the city. Many former employees have found work in neighboring industrial towns and the business men have gradually adapted themselves to the change. Residence and business properties maintain a good value and all the houses are occupied. The older miners who own their own homes are the chief sufferers, but there is usually someone employed in each family who assist in their support.

The rails and other equipment down below in the No. 3 mine will not be moved, the cost of taking them out being worth more than they could ever be sold for. An electric pump, which has been in operation for the past year keeping the mine free of water, the officials living in hopes that operations would be resumed again, was stopped last week.

DNA TESTING ARTICLE IN FAMILY CIRCLE

Are you confused by the myriad of DNA testing services?

In the March 2018 issue of Family Circle the BCGS staff found an article on DNA testing that we believe you may find interesting. The article was written by Jeanne Erdmann and is in the Health section of the magazine. It is entitled "The Story of You." DNA testing can be confusing and difficult to understand since there are numerous companies offering the service and they often do not perform the same tests.

Have you considered having your DNA tested? If so, what are you looking for? Information about your ancestors and where they came from? Relatives you didn't know you had? Medical proclivities for cancer, high cholesterol, etc.? Not all DNA tests are created equal and the article helps to break down the options and concentrates on DNA tests as they relate to health issues. It lists a number of testing services that are frequently ignored by articles that specialize in DNA testing for your ancestors region of origin.

NEHGS LAUNCHES INTERACTIVE MAYFLOWER WEBSITE

(New England Historic Genealogical Society e-mail, 15 November 2017)

In anticipation of the 2020 commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower's voyage, NEHGS has launched Mayflower 2020. This interactive website features the world's first online gathering of Mayflower descendants, along with in-depth information about Mayflower passengers and their family trees, resources for finding Mayflower ancestors, and information on "Mayflower 2020" announcements and events.

To be a part of this historical 400th anniversary, join the world's first online gathering of Mayflower descendants. Visit Mayflower.americanancestors.org to add your

name and photo and find other Mayflower descendants near you and around the world. Please share with your family and friends!

PRESERVING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY WITH A QUILT

Family history is not only dates and names and charts. One way to preserve your family history in an artistic fashion is with a quilt which can become a treasured heirloom for your family. Several of our volunteers have used bits of cloth from family clothing, aprons, etc. to commemorate members of their family.

A local business, Quilter's Garden, in Princeton in Bureau County was recently chosen as one of the 10 top shops in the nation by Quilt Sampler magazine, a special interest publication of Better Homes & Gardens. The article is in the fall/winter 2017 edition of the magazine. They offer a variety of classes in addition to a wide selection of fabric.

If you are in the Princeton area, you may wish to stop by Quilter's Garden for their assistance. Quilter's Garden is located at 527 S. Main St., Princeton, IL 61356 which is approximately a block from the BCGS Family History Library. They can be contacted at 815-879-3739 or quiltersgardenonline.com

POPULATION OF BUREAU COUNTY

(Bureau County Tribune, 30 November 1900)

The population of Bureau county, June 1, 1900, was 41,112, according to the census just completed. In 1890 the census gave us 35,014; so the gain for our county during the last ten years has been 6,098. The population of Illinois is now 4,821,550, which is a gain during the last ten years of 995,199 or 26 per cent.

HENNEPIN CANAL

(Bureau County Tribune, 14 September 1894)

The last week contractor Callihan unloaded seventy mules at Bureau, took them to right of way of the first two miles of the Hennepin canal, and set about putting up accommodations for his long-eared helpers. Several men, as timekeeper, bookkeeper and four assistants, are on the ground. Some tents for men and beasts are pitched. Scrapers and other machinery were on the way to the scene of operation this morning. About seventy-five men are in the vicinity waiting to be put on the pay roll and draw a salary. Boarding tents and other buildings are under construction. The outfit will likely include four hundred men, who will be put to work as soon as possible on excavating the last of this week. Surveying gangs are only waiting to line out as soon as contractors are prepared to begin. The excavations and embankments must be finished in three months or less in order to escape bad weather, which would make work bad in the above section which is next to the Illinois river. Over six miles of the right of way of the first eight miles is fenced, and nearly all of the eight cleared for the contractors. – Tiskilwa Chief.

The people in this vicinity have been very indignant at the gross exaggerations of the Princeton correspondent of the "Chicago dailies" during the past few weeks, in regard to the amount of laborers at work and needed on the Hennepin canal, and the consequent daily influx of tramps and unemployed men at this place. He has also carried the impression that Princeton was the headquarters of engineers and of all operations of the canal, whereas United States Engineer Long has a whole house here in Tiskilwa devoted to the work of his several assistants in drafting, plating and surveying, and called officially headquarters. The seventy-five men of the clearing gangs remain here also. The young man who does the writing for those papers does well in remaining under protecting care of unsuspecting friends, and continue in his imaginative hallucinations

hatched out by the slimy [sic] reports afloat; and the few facts which he has obtained from reliable parties are hardly recognizable to the authors. "The canal boys have "spotted" him, and will joyfully pluck his journalistic pin-feathers in such a manner that his own people will think him one of the poor, suckless, dust-buried, unshaven and almost clothless Coxeyites who beg for sustenance at the doors of the fortunate - Tiskilwa Chief

BAD FIRE AT LADD THURSDAY

(Spring Valley Gazette, 6 May, 1915)

Fire Sweeps Frame Building In Business

Section. Originated in Abandoned Ice House. Lighted cigarette stubs thrown in the straw of an old ice house on the main street of Ladd, is supposed to have started a conflagration which for a time threatened the entire business section of the village of Ladd last Thursday night.

On Thursday evening the Airdome, owned by Louis Grivetti, opened for the season. A large ice house, belonging to Mrs. Benjamin Edwards stood just south of the airdome stage. It is the opinion of many that boys congregated in this building to witness the performance and became careless with their smoking, allowing sparks to fall among the straw. About eleven o'clock that night the ice house was discovered to be on fire and before the firemen could arrive had spread to the stage of the air dome and to another barn belonging to Mrs. Edwards across the alley. As the flames had gained such a start the Ladd firemen could do nothing to check the fire and devoted their attention to the surrounding buildings, preventing the destruction of other buildings in the vicinity. The Spring Valley company was called upon for assistance and made a quick trip to the neighboring village, but the fire was under control when they reached there.

Besides the destruction of the ice house, barn and stage, an electric piano, stage settings and the wardrobe of a vaudeville troop (sic) was burned, also two tons of hay and two wagons which were stored in the Edwards barn.

LA MOILLE'S WINDFALL

(Bureau County Tribune, 29 April 1887)

Our La Moille letter of last week contained the announcement of the death of Joseph Allen, an early settler in or near that village, and a bachelor of reticent and retiring disposition of such habits of economy and methods of life and living as to have acquired the reputation among some of being stingy and miserly. But the expression of such sentiments are unheard in La Moille now, and if made in their presence, there or elsewhere, would be resented by every inhabitant of that town, male and female. When Mr. Allen had passed over to the other shore or to speak only within the bounds of known facts, had departed this life, and his will had been opened it was found that he had bequeathed to the village of LaMoille the sum of \$35,000 for the erection and maintenance of a public school building. The sum of \$25,000 was set up part [sic] for the erection and furnishing of the building, and \$10,000 is to be held in trust and on interest and the proceeds applied to keeping the building in good repair.

J. W. Burnett is the executor of the will, without bond, and the following named gentlemen compose the board of trustees charged with the erection of the school building and the care of the school funds: E. W. Fassett, J.Y. Burnett, E. W. Frary, Willet Graves and L. K. Kendall.

The will of Mr. Allen also contained the following additional bequests; to the Baptist Seminary of Chicago, \$5,000; to the Congregational Seminary in Chicago \$5,000 and the same amount to the American Board of Missions.

Mr. Allen's estate is said to be worth about \$350,000. It is also said that there exists evidence warranting the belief that he has quietly given away large sums of money within the last few years.

The revelation of his wealth was a great surprise to the people of the village, for although he was known to be in good circumstances not the least suspicion was abroad of the vast extent of his possessions.

He left bonds immediately available, to the amount of \$50,000 and the people marvel how a man could live among them as Mr. Allen did and manage the affairs of such an estate without anybody knowing about it.



ALLEN SCHOOL STILL BEING USED

The Allen School built from the bequest of Joseph Allen is still being used in LaMoille and has been in continuous use since 1888. Four generations of the Ecklund Family

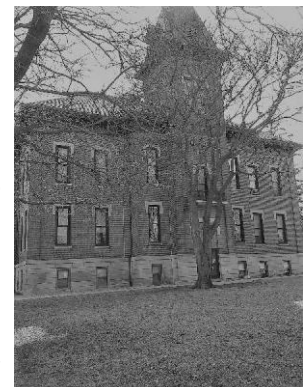
attended the school, according to BCGS volunteer Joan Ecklund and she believes there are other families in LaMoille where five generations of the same family have attended Allen School.

For several years the school provided the primary eight grades plus a three-year high school. The first graduating class of the Allen School included five young women. In 1916-1917 it became the LaMoille Community High School. The building is currently used as a junior high school but proudly acknowledges its roots with a portrait of Joseph Allen facing the front door.

According to the LaMoille Community Unit School District, Allen

Junior High is the "oldest unmodified and functional school building in Illinois."

Joseph Allen was born in Hampshire County, Massachusetts in 1813 and moved to Princeton in 1836 and became a successful stockman and owned 960 acres of land.



How to Find Genealogy, Family History, and Local History Books in the Internet Archive

(Dick Eastman, 6 July 2017)

The article below is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 2017 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <<http://www.eogn.com>>)

Would you like to electronically search through 129,577 genealogy books? You can do that on the Internet Archives' online service at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogy> Not only can you search these books, but you can do so electronically. A search for a name might require a few seconds, not hours or days in the manner of a manual search through printed books in a library.

The Internet Archive (also known as The Internet WayBack Machine Archive) is a San Francisco-based nonprofit digital library with the stated mission of "universal access to all knowledge." It provides free public access to collections of digitized materials, including websites, software applications/games, music, movies/videos, moving images, and nearly three million public-domain books. This online library now has a collection that fills more than 15 petabytes. NOTE: 15 petabytes is equal to 15 million gigabytes.

The Internet Archive's collection is growing daily. Best of all, the use of the Internet Archive is always FREE. There is only one class of available service: FREE. There is no upgraded, or "pro" version. The Internet Archive is funded solely by voluntary donations, so everything is free.

I have written often about the Internet Archive. You can find a list of my past articles about the Internet Archive by starting at: <http://bit.ly/2ttEHvd>.

The Internet Archive has always collected genealogy, family history, and local history books. However, searching through the huge collection used to require imaginative search terms to find specific references. For

instance, searching all of the Internet Archive for references to my last name of Eastman used to find a few genealogy books buried in a listing of hundreds of books related to photography. In addition, a search for family names often also produced listings of book authors who shared that name, even if the book had nothing to do with genealogy. A search for a family name that is also a common English word, such as Black or Street was almost hopeless. Luckily, a change made some time ago has now reduced the search problems.

The Internet Archive now has a dedicated section just for genealogy, family history, and local history books at

[_https://archive.org/details/genealogy](https://archive.org/details/genealogy)
You might want to go to that address first and then conduct a search there.

When writing this article, I went to <https://archive.org/details/genealogy> found the box labeled "Search this Collection" and performed a search for: Eastman. That search found 37 books. Unlike searches I have performed in the past, all the books were either (1) books about Eastman genealogy or (2) genealogy or local history books that had the name Eastman someplace within the book. In fact, quite a few of the books were local histories for towns where Eastman families had settled. One book was a history book written by Ralph M. Eastman although the book did not appear to contain any genealogy information. I also tried searching for geographic locations, such as "Penobscot County," and had equally good success.

A few of the books listed in my searches were about U.S. Civil War histories. Those books had little or no genealogy information but contained great information about the soldiers and sailors who served during that war.

Many of the books were originally published in the 1800s; all of the ones I found

(Continued on Page 33)

How to Find Genealogy, Family History, and Local History Books in the Internet Archive

(Continued from Page 32)

were published prior to 1923. The front covers of each book were displayed, and clicking on the image of any book cover immediately showed the contents of the book. Once I clicked on a book's image, full source citations also were displayed for that book, including:

Author(s) name(s)

Publication date

Publisher's name

Internet Archive call number

Number of pages within the book

The name of the person or organization who contributed the book and even the name of the OCR software used to convert the book to text.

The searches seem to work best for surnames of families that have been in North America for a century or longer. It does not work well for recent immigrants with eastern European or Oriental or Hispanic names. After all, these books are out of copyright; therefore, almost all were published prior to 1923. Don't look for more recent immigrant families in this collection. Almost all the books listed are in English although a very small number may be in other languages.

The addition of a dedicated genealogy section on the Internet Archive is an incremental improvement but a very welcome one indeed. It greatly simplifies the searches for genealogy, family history, and local history books in this fabulous online resource.

I suggest you might want to go to <https://archive.org/details/genealogy> and search for any surnames of interest. You never know what you might find. You probably want to bookmark that address. Did I mention that the service is FREE?

Walnut to Celebrate July 4th

(Walnut Leader, 19 June 1925)

Plans are being made by the business men and the American Legion for one of the largest and best celebrations ever held in our little city and judging from the names on the various committees, we'll say it will be some celebration.

The following committees have been selected:

Executive Committee – F. M. Burke, chairman; G. P. Frederick, D. Siebels, C. W. Fisher, I. M. Lewis.

Finance Committee – East side, I. M. White, George Gonigam; West side, D. Siebels, I. M. Lewis.

Parade Committee – Ed. Hammerle, Charles Major.

Platform Committee - Rev. H. B. Wheaton, Leon Oakford, C. M. Hatland.

Advertising Committee - E. C. Wilson, H. R. Kerchner.

Sport Committee - C. W. Fisher, E. C. Wilson, E. A. Wedding, F. M. Burke.

Dance Committee - Fay Quilter, P. R. Denslake.

Fireworks Committee - Frank Golden, Cortez Knight.

Band Committee - G. P. Frederick, D. Siebels.

Ball Game Committee - C. W. Fisher, F. M. Burke, Irve Lewis.

Plans are being made to take the Walnut Community band and go on an advertising trip to the surrounding cities and villages.

Committees are busy working unceasingly and effectively on plans to carry out a fine celebration and with a fine cooperation of all out citizens in country and town, they will be able to put over some celebration, which will be remembered by both old and young. Everybody is invited and expected to come to Walnut and celebrate.

MEMORIAL TO COAL HOLLOW SETTLERS ERECTED

[Bureau County Record, 30 October 1936]

History of Early Mining Community is Told

A marker honoring the memory of early settlers in Coal Hollow, five miles east of Princeton has been set up on a bluff overlooking the East Bureau Creek Valley and the hard road running east of Princeton, the site of the coal mining district which supplied most of Bureau County with fuel in the early days. The marker is located on an elevation of about 60 feet West of the well-known "House that Jack built" which for years served as a trading post and general merchandise store. From the top of the hill a fine view of the entire community is afforded.

The marker, of substantial design was erected by James Fletcher County Clerk, and Joseph and Jim Smith, who lived near the family homestead. It has been put up in the memory of their fathers and mothers Harry Fletcher and Mrs. Hanna Beckler Fletcher and William Smith and his wife Anna Fletcher Smith.

These early settlers located at Coal Hollow shortly after the Civil War where they assisted in opening up a mining field that at one time boasted 14 coal mines. Built up around them was a community of 50 homes, being the largest coal mining camp in this part of the country at that time. This field furnished the coal supply for practically all of the Princeton and nearby towns. Scores of teamsters were used to convey the coal until the state-wide commercial mines located along the railroads were developed in East Bureau County at Spring Valley, Ladd and Seatonville.

WAS LIVE PLACE

In the early days Coal Hollow was a live place and became something of a trading center. Many celebrations were held there on national holidays those Fourth of July being of particular importance. A number of residents of the community took an active part in local and county politics and also in some of the official religious and civic organizations of the

County. The descendants of many of these men still live in the community and the nearby towns.

The 14 men who owned mines at Coal Hollow at one time were, Harry Fletcher, father of James Fletcher; Joe Fletcher, William Smith, George Heathcock, Nicholas, Ridley and Jackson, and Andy and John Walton, William Bowen, Selby Smith, Charles Birchell, Jack Hill, the man who built "The House that Jack Built," William Harrington, Norton Nichols, J. H. Delano, whose home was at Princeton, and Amos Douglas.

The following persons are among those who owned the homes at Coal Hollow during the active days: Harry Fletcher, Joe Fletcher, William Smith, Joe Vane, George Heathcock, John Glover, Joseph Wonder, Charles Beckley, John Halladay, Amos Douglas, Doc Greener, John Griffin, Charles Birchell, John Helmer, Mr. Simon, Mr. Lunn, Mr. Pierce, George Frederick, John Burer, Sylvester Morsman, Thomas Elliott, William Floyd, John Walton, Fred Sledgister, Andrew Walton, S. Andrew Walton, Jr., Bill Bowen, John Nichols, Dick Nichols, Jack Ridley, Mr. Jackson, Martin Decker, Sam Golden, Serm Solomon, Mr. Solomon, Joseph Stark, Mr. Turner, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Herbolsheimer, Levi Bartion, William Prior, Josh Prior, John Boles, John Barker, William and Jim Riley.

Besides the residences in the town there were many other buildings such as the Baptist Church, the Odd Fellows hall, Shabbona school, and the Burman board [sic] house. There were also boarding houses operated by Mr. Fletcher, William Smith and Selby Smith.

CENSUS ACCURACY

(Bureau County Tribune, 10 August 1900)

There are said to be four families in one neighborhood in this city, comprising sixteen persons, upon not one of whom the census taker called. It is said whole neighborhoods were omitted in Chicago, and many hotels containing from 250 to 400 regular boarders were not visited by the census taker.

Bureau County Boxer

(Bureau County Republican, 8 July 1909)

Fight Fans in Princeton and all over Bureau, LaSalle and Henry counties are inconsolable because of the defeat of Billy Papke at the hands of Stanley Ketchel at San Francisco, Cal., Monday.

There are few who admit that Referee Billy Roche's decision awarding the fight to Ketchel on points at the end of the twenty rounds was fair. The report by rounds sent out by the associated press leave but little doubt in the minds of fight followers that Papke held his own, and that in the closing rounds he had the Michigan champion backing up. The opinion is freely expressed that if the fight had gone twenty-five rounds instead of twenty there would have been no need for the offices of a referee to render a decision, as Papke would have made the result so decisive that the only thing necessary would be to do the counting over Ketchel's prostrate form. At the ringside loud cries of robbery were heard from all sides and demonstrations were made by the crowd showing the unpopularity of the decision. Reports from San Francisco state that the verdict has not advanced Ketchell in the esteem of the coast fans, but that on the other hand Papke is better thought of there now than he had ever been. Large sums of money changed hands on the result of the fight, but the Papke men were not heavy losers as they managed to pick up numerous bets at even money, backing him to stay twelve rounds. Papke has a great many friends in Princeton and at Spring Valley, where he formerly lived, and his showing Monday is a source of pride to them even though the verdict of the referee was against him.



Genealogy One Liner

**Genealogists are Time
Unravelers**

Robbers Make Big Haul

(Walnut Leader, 22 August 1924)

Bandits Break into Merchandise Car at Bureau Junction and Secure Loot Amounting to About \$5000

Automobile bandits, one member of whom was a bob-haired, blue-eyed girl presumably from Peoria, took advantage of the tie-up on the Rock Island railroad last week and while freight trains were tied up in the yards at Bureau Junction, entered four cars of one train, opened the boxes containing dress goods, bath robes and other valuable merchandise helped themselves to a truck load of this material, together with automobile tires and other expensive freight and made their escape before the robbery was discovered. It is said the loot amounted to about \$5,000.

This robbery was preceded on last Monday morning by the robbery of the Fowler garage at DePue and was followed by an unsuccessful attempt to rob a freight train and garage at Tiskilwa on Thursday morning. In each case the officers believe the robber gangs have headquarters at Peoria or Pekin and the police of those cities and the railroad detectives are cooperating with the Bureau County officers in trying to ferret out the gang.

Special agent Mayberry of the Rock Island railroad, who was riding a freight train west out of Bureau Junction early Thursday morning, stated that he saw a large automobile containing several men leave Bureau with the train and at every road crossing speeded ahead and stopped while the train passed. The occupants of the car played their spotlight on the train and Mayberry was of the opinion that a train holdup was to be attempted. The maneuvers continued until the train reached Tiskilwa.

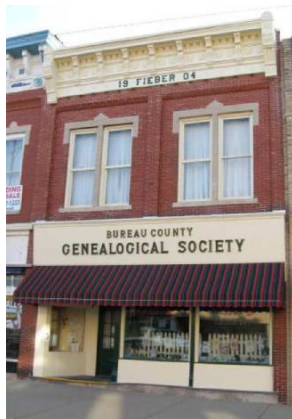
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