

# FOOTPRINTS IN MARION COUNTY

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VOLUME 38

FALL 2013

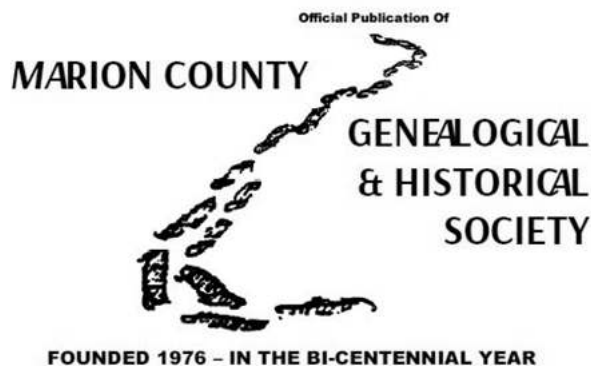
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Published by  
Marion County Genealogical & Historical Society  
P.O. Box 342 Salem, Illinois 62881

**On the cover:** *An artifact called "Mystery Man" reportedly found in the Lowery cave (see story page 15)*

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July 2013 – June 2014

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# August Meeting Minutes

*Submitted by Jeanna Chapman, Secretary*

**O**n Monday, August 26, 2013, the Marion County Genealogical and Historical Society meeting was held in the Genealogy Room of the Bryan-Bennett Library. The program was Show & Tell.

Wanda Fatheree shared a nice picture album she has made in which she has cataloged family heirlooms that she has given to members of her family.

Bob Lybarger showed his great grandfather's straight-edged razor and sharpening stone, his father's WWII razor, and his grandmother's coin purse in which she had kept a scrap of paper which read 'shame on you' as a joke to any person who might open the purse looking for money.

John Shaw shared his extensive and very well-organized collection of three-ring binder notebooks containing historical information about Walnut Hill and vicinity. His collection includes notebooks about:

- Hill Churches and Pastors
- Walnut Hill Banks (beginning about 1927)
- Walnut Hill Post Office
- Walnut Hill businesses
- the Goshen Trail as related to that vicinity
- the Coventry Church
- one of the area's ladies' clubs
- Walnut Hill and surrounding cemeteries
- the Walnut Hill Grade School and other area schools
- zoning ordinances of the Walnut Hill area
- the streets of Centralia
- a "Journal of Four Men Who Left Walnut Hill To Travel To The California Gold Rush (and later returned)"

Becky Zeissler showed her grandma's Half-A-Cup for Coffee and a dish with a funny poem on it.

Jeanna Chapman shared some school readers dating from about 1895 to the 1920's, including Charles Dickens' "The Cricket on the Hearth."

Pauline Barksdale brought a fancy necklace of a gold coin which her family had hidden to save from the 1933 gold call-in, a \$5 piece, a \$2 and ½ piece, and a ring.

Judy Queen showed a unique glass angel food cake pan she found in an antique store in Colorado while visiting Larry's mother.



Illustration from Dickens' "The Cricket on the Hearth"

Doris Riley shared two of her dolls: one given to her by her grandmother when she was about 5 years old, and the other from her sister when she was about 10 years old. She also showed a Play-Days book dated 1925 from her brother; and an antique Conoco Rain Gauge and a small Conoco Household Oil can that Floyd had gotten in his early years of working for Conoco.

Mona Watson shared two old Salemarion yearbooks.

Brenda Loew shared a unique Clip-less Paper Fastener. Its patent was applied for in 1911 and granted in 1916.

Dorothy Bruce showed a large, framed, old map of Effingham, Fayette, Clay, and Marion counties.

Jane Waddell shared that she has a picture of her great-great-grandmother's brother, Andrew Flint, in his Civil War Uniform. He was killed at Vicksburg.

Harold Boyles told that his son, Kent, went to Paradise Cemetery and took pictures of his grandparents' gravestones. President Boyles then called the regular business meeting to order. He read the July Minutes which were accepted. In July's Financial Report the starting balance was: \$6422.14, and the ending balance was \$6650.94. In discussing new business, Wanda Fatheree shared that she would like to hold the September Meeting at the One Room School House near the Salem Community High School. Brenda Loew made motion to adjourn. Mona Watson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

# Special Thanks

**I**T is with gratitude that we acknowledge two people who have contributed items to our archives recently. It is with the inclusion of such generous gifts to the Society that our group can continue in its stated purpose to “discover and collect any material which may help to establish or illustrate the history of the county.”

## ***Thank you:***

*Virginia Hopkins* for donating her book *A HOPKINS FAMILY IN AMERICA*.

*Mona Watson* who donated a number of items which include:

- COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND ARCHIVES IN PENNSYLVANIA, edited by Sylvester K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent
- HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF OHIO IN TWO VOLUMES: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE STATE, by Henry Howe
- THE HISTORY OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO
- COMBINATION ATLAS MAP OF TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO, by L. H. Everts Co.
- TUSCARAWAS COUNTY, OHIO, MARRIAGES 1808-1804: VOLUME I from Books 1, 2 & 3, by the Tuscarawas Co. Genealogical Society
- 1875 HISTORY OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO; by L. H. Everts
- HISTORY OF THE LACKAWANNA VALLEY [Penn.], by H. Hollister
- WARRANTS AND SURVEYS OF THE PROVINCE OF PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING THE THREE LOWER COUNTIES, 1759; compiled by Allen Weinberg and Thomas E. Slattery
- OHIO: THE CROSS ROAD OF OUR NATION – RECORDS & PIONEER FAMILIES Vol. XVII, No. II; Vol. XIII, No. III; and Vol. XIV, No. IV)
- FAMOUS OLD EUCLID AVENUE OF CLEVELAND [OHIO]: AT ONE TIME CALLED THE MOST BEAUTIFUL STREET IN THE WORLD; by Ella Grant Willson
- THE WORLD AND ITS WAYS, by William Jennings Bryan

All of these books have been added to the Marion County Genealogical & Historical Society's library and are now available for use in the genealogy room.

# Hank Leonard and “Judge Lynch”

In late April, 1870, an innocent man lost his life at the hands of a mob who was convinced that he had robbed a local farmer. The news spread quickly into many papers throughout the nation, and even made it to page two of a London, England newspaper in the “America” column. Then Governor of Illinois, John M. Palmer, issued a statement to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of Illinois regarding the action, along with a \$1,000 reward to help bring the perpetrators to justice. Following are two original accounts, the second of which reached the rest of the world, followed by the Governor’s statement.

SCHEDULE 2.—Persons who Died during the Year ending 1st June, 1870, in Salem, in the County of Monroe, State of Ill, enumerated by me, Hugh Moore, Asst Marshal.

Number of the Family, as given in the 9th column of Schedule 1.	Name of every person who died during the year ending June 1, 1870, whose place of abode at the time of death was in this family.	DESCRIPTION				Place of Birth, naming the State or Territory of the U. S., or the country, if of foreign birth.	PARENTAGE		The Month in which the person died.	Profession, Occupation, or Trade.	Cause or Cause of Death.
		Age at death (in years, months, and days).	Sex.	Color.	Married (M) or Widowed (W).		Place of Birth, male.	Place of Birth, female.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	Leonard Hank	27	Male	White		Unknown			Jan	Killing Hank Leonard	Hung by a mob
20	H. M. Leonard	4	Male	White		Unknown			Mar		
Total number of deaths, 30		No. of white males, 16		No. of black males, 0		No. of colored males, 0		No. of married, 9		Total foreign born, 1	
		No. of white females, 14		No. of black females, 0		No. of colored females, 0		No. of widowed, 2		Total foreign born, 1	
REMARKS: Hank Leonard was hung by a mob not a member of any family											

Hank Leonard’s death was one of 30 recorded by Hugh Moore, Assistant Marshal, for the year ending June 1<sup>st</sup>, 1870, in Salem. Leonard was of unknown age, a white male, of unknown nativity, and he died by “homicide, hung by a mob.” An additional remark at bottom of page told that Leonard was “not a member of any family.”

## Robbery and Lynching

From the April 26, 1870 QUINCY WHIG of Quincy, IL

On Friday night last, Mr. Thomas Pigg and family were bound by robbers at his residence, near Odin, Marion County, Illinois, and robbed of nearly five hundred dollars. The robbers escaped with their booty. It seems they belonged to a gang, for whom the police made a stirring search. On Wednesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, an accomplice was arrested at Odin, and under threats of lynch law, his chief, Hank Leonard, was disclosed, arrested and put in jail at Salem. The next night a body of men,



two hundred strong, went from Odin to Salem, demanded to see the prisoner, took him from the jail and hanged him until he was dead.

Later.—Hank Leonard, *alias* Leonard Rogers, was a gambler at Odin. When taken by the crowd, he was strung up to a tree, and at length confessed his guilt. He was then taken to Salem and put in jail. On Wednesday night about 2 o'clock, the lynching crowd surrounded the jail and demanded the keys. Carrigan, the sheriff, refused them. They then battered the doors with a sledge hammer, and took the prisoner.

The sheriff summoned what aid he could and pursued. He found him hanging near Mr. Samuel Shanafelt's house, two miles from Salem, cut him down, and hastened back to procure surgical aid. On returning he found the lynchers had been back and shot the prisoner twice through the brain. He brought the dead body back to Salem. Rogers was a young man without family. The sheriff says the men were not disguised, and he can recognize most of them. Great excitement prevails, though the deceased has no sympathizers.

### ***Leonard Had an Alibi***

*From the April 27, 1870 ALBANY EVENING JOURNAL of Albany, NY*

**T**he telegraph yesterday [via the DECATUR MAGNET, April 23d] briefly stated that on Wednesday night "a vigilance committee forced the Marion County jail at Salem, and took out and hanged a notorious desperado named Hank Leonard, alias Rogers, who was awaiting trial for the robbery of an old and respected farmer near Odin."

We have since learned that Leonard, the man so summarily dealt with, left Priest's Hotel last Monday, where he had been sojourning for ten days previously, and that the robbery above referred to was committed on Friday night, 15th instant, a week ago last night. Consequently he could not have been the guilty party, as he was at Priest's Hotel on that evening, and had been for a week previously.

Mr. Priest, the landlord, and George Daly, one of the clerks of the hotel, were summoned to attend the examination, but there being some flaw in the subpoena, the constable informed them that it was not incumbent upon them to obey until this flaw was corrected. By that time the unfortunate man was

hung, which, of course, obviated the necessity of the witnesses here attending. It was perhaps fortunate for them that they did not attend, as we understood that the Vigilance Committee said that any witness who would testify that the prisoner did not commit the robbery, was no better than he, and should they attend the examination would share the same fate.

Leonard, alias Rogers, registered under the former name here, and is said to have demeaned himself in a quiet, peaceable manner while here.

He was a gambler, or as it is more politely termed, “a sporting man;” and whatever may have been his crime, he was certainly not guilty of the one for which he paid the penalty of his life.

One of the worst features of mob law is that the innocent may suffer the penalty of the guilty; whereas the statutes say it is better that ninety-nine guilty persons should escape punishment than one innocent one should suffer. Were the laws more faithfully enforced by courts of justice, there would be no necessity of vigilance committees, and mob law would soon pass away with other relics of barbarism.



*Governor John M. Palmer*

***“Under Circumstances of  
Peculiar Atrocity”***

*From the Governor’s Message to the 27<sup>th</sup>  
General Assembly of Illinois, convened  
January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1871*

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of  
Representatives:

Meeting the representatives of the people a second time, I am permitted by the circumstances to congratulate them that since the last session of the General Assembly, nothing has occurred to interrupt the steady progress of the State. The inhabitants of nearly every district have been blessed with a large measure of health; the harvests have afforded plenty; employment has been abundant and industry well

rewarded...and the laws for the preservation of peace and order have been, in almost every instance, faithfully executed.

...Amongst the exceptions to the general enforcement of the laws of the State, are several instances of outrages committed by mobs. On the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 1870, one Harrison Reed, who was charged with murder committed in Madison County, was taken from the custody of an officer who was conveying him to jail, and killed. On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1870, one Hank Leonard was forcibly taken from the jail of Marion County, and put to death under circumstances of peculiar atrocity. On the 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1870, one Joseph C. Ramsey, while in the custody of an officer of Putnam County, who was conveying him to the county jail, was seized by a mob and hanged.

**T**hese cases were officially reported to me, and other instances of lawless violence have occurred in the State, in regard to which I have no official information. It will be observed by an examination of the reports made to me of the circumstances that attended the killing of the persons above named, that they were at the time helpless prisoners, without any means at hand of self-defense, and if the officers who had them in custody attempted to defend them, it was done in a manner that reflects no great degree of credit upon their firmness or sense of duty. ...When the facts were fully investigated by me, I offered a reward of one thousand dollars for the apprehension and conviction of the offenders in each of these cases, but no arrests have been reported to me.

...The frequent recurrence of crimes committed by mobs, and the fact that instances of the punishment of the offenders are rare, suggest the inquiry whether some legislation is not necessary for their repression. The Governor is charged by the Constitution with the obligation "to take care that the laws are faithfully executed," and yet, although he may be satisfied that in this class of cases and others, officers neglect or refuse to discharge their duties, or that State's Attorneys are incompetent or refuse to take the necessary steps to punish offenders, he can neither remove nor suspend them, nor bring them to trial before the judicial tribunals.

It is for the General Assembly to determine whether it is proper to give the Executive Department any additional powers, to be employed for the enforcement of the criminal laws. In the cases mentioned my powers are exhausted, and the violators of the laws are unpunished.

# Deed Uncovered After 70 Years

*From the Dec. 15, 1942 SYCAMORE TRUE REPUBLICAN of Sycamore, IL*



Arthur C. Lueder, state Auditor of Public Accounts, today ended a search that has existed for more than 70 years with the announcement of the discovery in Salem, Illinois, and return to the vault in Springfield, of a certified copy of the deed from the State of Illinois to the Illinois Central Railroad Company granting them the land to build their line from Chicago to Cairo.

Over the period of years, Mr. Lueder pointed out, there have been thousands of requests by attorneys and abstractors of titles throughout the state for certified copies of the deed to settle disputes over land titles of various tracts of land comprised in this grant.

The deed, according to testimony of officials of the Illinois Central Company before the Illinois Supreme Court in 1872, was supposed to have been lost in the Chicago fire of 1871 along with all other records of the company, Auditor Lueder stated. The officials were called on to testify in regard to a lawsuit which was instituted in Coles County and pertained to a tract of land which was included in the 2,160,170 acres granted to the I. C. in 1851—the deed being executed by Governor August C. French, but presumably never recorded owing to its great length.

An act of the United States Congress, September 25, 1850, granted this land to the State of Illinois, which was in turn to be granted to the Illinois Central for construction of their railroad.

Auditor Lueder, believing that the deed must have been recorded in some county, continued the search in towns situated along the railroad and finally discovered a complete copy of the deed in Salem, county seat of Marion. Although the Supreme Court upheld testimony of officials of the I. C. that “owing to its great length the deed had never been recorded and had been destroyed by the recent conflagration in Chicago, together with other papers and books of the Company,” the deed was recorded in Salem September 19, 1894—23 years later.

The only reason that seemed probable for the deed to have been recorded only in Marion County was the fact that the Illinois Central laid out the town

of Centralia in that county and may have felt a closer relationship than to any of the others, Lueder suggested. Return of this document to Springfield completes the title records of the Illinois Central Railroad, he continued. They are kept in the vault of the office of Auditor of Public Accounts and will be available for any future land title disputes.



1851-1883



1883-1896



1896-1923



1923-1936



1936-1950



1950-1967



1967-1972



1972-1988

Illinois  
Central



1988-

*Illinois Central Railroad logos throughout the years.*

Source: Illinois Central Historical Society,  
[www.icrrhistorical.org](http://www.icrrhistorical.org)

# Black Family Cemetery

*Judy Tracy has provided us with updated information regarding the Black Family Cemetery which is located north of Salem, in Tonti Township, Section 21, of Marion County, Illinois.*

Occupant: P.J. Somerville

Occupant: James Renick Black  
Son of William Renick Black & Judith A. Jones  
Born January 3, 1851  
Died February 22, 1892  
Married April 2, 1875 to Miranda H. Van Gilder  
Miranda H. Van Gilder was born June 28, 1856  
and died February 20, 1928

Occupant: James Wesley Black  
Son of James Renick Black and Miranda Van Gilder  
Born May 12, 1886  
Died February 7, 1887

Occupant: Edward Leroy Black  
Son of James Renick Black and Miranda Van Gilder  
Born July 15, 1891  
Died May 23, 1892 aged 8 months, 15 days

Occupant: Charles Lee Black  
Son of William Renick Black and Judith A. Jones  
Born June 3, 1843  
Died January 29, 1901  
Married October 29, 1879 to Mary F. Morris

Occupant: Emma Black  
Daughter of William Renick Black and Judith A. Jones  
Born March 5, 1847  
Died October 3, 1848

Note: In the family history book by Harry Black, her name is listed as Emily Jane, but this is incorrect.

There are two stones in this cemetery. One is incorrect with "J" letters turned backward and other mistakes. Correct stone says the above information with the mother's and father's initials. Wrong stone was left in cemetery.

Occupant: William Renick Black  
Son of James Black and Rachel Renick Black  
Born April 3, 1812  
Died November 17, 1876 aged 64 years, 7 months, 14 days  
Married January 19, 1842 to Judith A. "Juggy" Jones

Occupant: Judith A. Black  
Daughter of Charles Lee Jones and Elizabeth L. Spencer  
Born May 20, 1820  
Died January 24, 1901  
Married January 19, 1842 to William Renick Black

Occupant: Lewis Linn Black  
Son of Robert Kelly Black  
Born April 27, 1846  
Died June 7, 1916

Stone for Lewis Linn Black also commemorates his wife:

Roxanna Rosalie  
Born May 23, 1855  
Died March 6, 1941

Note: Roxanna's maiden name is Holland.  
She married Mr. Race after Lewis' death.  
Mr. Race buried at Kinmundy.  
This stone was placed in the cemetery in 2006  
by great-great-granddaughters.

Black Family Cemetery Stone by Carl Black,  
great-grandson of Lewis Linn Black.

# The Lowery Treasure

## Conspiracies, Hoaxes and ... Alexander the Great?

*Written by Becky Michael Zeissler*

**T**here is a legend in Marion County, Illinois of a treasure discovered in 1925 by a farmer named Orville Lowery and his two daughters, Velma and Fern. Like all good legends, this one is rooted in a mixture of hard, solid facts and an obliterating vapor of speculation, fantasy and myth. I will attempt to outline this story in a comprehensible manner, although flights of fancy will waft it from us shortly after the known facts are stated. In the interest of full disclosure, I discovered, during my research, that the matron of the family, Dollie Lowery, was a sister to my great-grandfather, Albert W. Russell. I attempted to contact several direct descendants of the Lowery family, but as of this printing have not been able to interview them.



*Mr. and Mrs. Orville and Dollie Lowery, from the MT. VERNON REGISTER NEWS of Nov. 26, 1968.*

I did talk to other family members who knew and visited the Lowerys—including one cousin who lived with them temporarily—and none of these folks were even aware of Uncle Orville's discovery, if, in fact, he had indeed discovered anything.

The first recorded instance of the Lowery connection to a discovery of any kind that I can find is in a 1977 treasure guide written by Michael Paul Henson. There is a brief paragraph pertaining to the find:

“About ten miles east of Kells [sic] on Orville Lowery's farm, a large rock bluff runs in a north-south direction. About 1925, Orville found a hole in the solid rock of this bluff. A rock lid carved exactly to fit the hole left only a faint line to show where it was. Orville



removed the lid and discovered an empty cavity. There are numerous carvings below the hole that are believed to be Indian or Spanish. No other cavities have been found, but anyone deciphering these symbols or using a metal detector along the face of this bluff might come upon something exciting there. Lowery firmly believed that the cavity had been filled with gold nuggets because he saw traces of gold on the sides of the hole.”<sup>[13]</sup>

**T**he Lowery family, per the 1920 (and 1930) census, lived in the south half of Romine Township in Marion County, Illinois. Orville Lowery was a farmer, a “cropper” on a rented farm, and he was married to Dollie Russell November 27, 1916<sup>[1]</sup>. These two, in 1925, were aged 30 and 27 respectively. Orville and Dollie had two daughters, namely Velma, aged 7, and Fern, aged 5 and 3 months.

William Orville Lowery was born December 23, 1896<sup>[2]</sup> to Silas and Eva (Cook) Lowery, and he died in St. Louis on December 29, 1973, when he “was stricken as he boarded a bus for Mt. Vernon.”<sup>[5]</sup>



*Velma Lowery with her grandparents, William W. and Mary A. Russell.*

Dollie Margaret Elvira Russell was born May 13, 1897<sup>[2]</sup> to William W. and Mary Alice (Sprouse) Russell in Romine Township, Marion County, Illinois.<sup>[3]</sup> Dollie died July 10, 1984 in Fort Worth, Texas.<sup>[4]</sup>

Velma would grow up to marry Harold Holabeck, and live in Des Plaines, Illinois. They were married for more than 50 years, and had three sons: Larry, Rodney and Roger, plus three grandsons at the time of her death. Born October 12, 1917, she died on May 12, 1998. Mrs. Holabeck is buried in Mt. Vernon, Illinois.

Fern also married. Her first marriage was to William D. Pace, Jr., and later to John Chuculate. She had two daughters, Mary Louise and Carolyn Sue Pace. Bill Pace died sometime prior to May 28, 1965.<sup>[10]</sup> Fern eventually

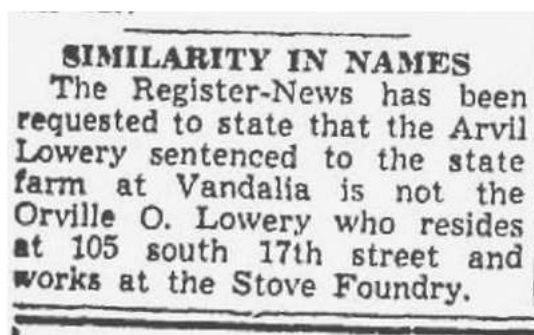
was grandmother to four grandchildren, namely Donnie and Kelley Stewart, plus Kimberly Kay and Jeffrey Hodge.<sup>[11]</sup>



Source: Bracy Food Store ad, MT. VERNON REGISTER NEWS, March 29, 1965

**T**he Lowery family's whereabouts from the 1940s through the 1970s can be easily ascertained due to frequent appearances in society columns of the MT. VERNON REGISTER NEWS during that time period. The usual notices are printed, including graduations, weddings, funerals, holiday visits and illnesses, but not once could I find even *a hint* of a story of lost treasure. That's not to say that Orville Lowery didn't have at least one brush with fortune, for he *did* win \$250 from the Mt. Vernon Bracy Food Store at 15<sup>th</sup> and Broadway in Spring of 1965 (*see clip above*).

However, it seems improbable that Lowery would knowingly allow an erroneous misuse of his name in a "lost treasure cache" story, as witnessed by his request in the November 4, 1953 edition of the MT. VERNON REGISTER NEWS to disassociate his name from that of a similarly named fellow who was a convicted felon (*see clip right*).



Further, in talking with my father's brother, their great-uncle Orville was a quiet, unassuming man, and no talk of gold-filled caves was ever heard from him at family gatherings. In fact, it was only while reading Fern's obituary online that I first heard of the "Lowery Treasure." There was one line at the bottom of the copy that simply stated:

“Fern was credited with an archeological find in 1925 in Marion County.”<sup>[16]</sup>

As it turned out, that line was not part of the original obituary, but was merely commentary supplied by someone known as “ABartelt” on ROOTSWEB.ANCESTRY.COM, who wished to elaborate on the old treasure story.

Here is the actual obituary, as it appeared on Saturday, June 26, 2004, in the FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM:

FORT WORTH – Fern Pace Chuculate, 84, a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, passed away Wednesday, June 23, 2004, in Fort Worth. Funeral: 9:30 a.m. Monday at Mount Olivet Chapel. Burial: Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park, Colleyville. Visitation: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Mount Olivet Funeral Home. Fern was born Sept. 24, 1919, in Marion County, Illinois. She was a licensed vocational nurse and a bookkeeper. Fern graduated from [Draughton’s] Business College and All Saints School of Nursing. She was a 55-plus-year member of Eastern Star and the Porcelain Art Club. Fern was also a member of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church and the New Faith Sunday school class. Survivors: Daughters, Mary Steward and husband, Don, of Keller; Carolyn Hodge and husband, Spencer, of Fort Worth; grandchildren, Kimberly Hodge, Donald Steward and wife, Elsa; Jeff Hodge and wife, Valerie; Kellie Procter and husband, Pepper; and eight great-grandchildren.

On the ROOTSWEB page, “ABartelt” tells a rather detailed version—in comparison with that of Henson’s 1977 treasure guide paragraph—of the alleged archaeological find. Unfortunately, we are not told the source of this richly-embroidered narrative:

“In spring of 1925, a local resident, Orville Lowery, of Hickory Hill, in the southeast corner of Marion County, Illinois, was busy with his two daughters removing rocks and debris from an area designated to be the family garden. His eldest daughter, Fern, who was six years old, began to explore along the ledge of the ravine next to the garden spot. Several feet away from the bluff, Fern discovered a hole cut through the sandstone by human hands. She called her father over to investigate the hole which he determined was of ancient origin.

“Orville worked diligently for years attempting to get professional investigators from the state of Illinois out to the site to examine this entrance into the subterranean cavity. Orville was met with futility as the Illinois experts sloughed off the idea that anything of ancient significance could possibly exist in the most remote regions of Marion County. Frustrated for lack of interest, Orville later sold his property and moved to Mt. Vernon about 20 miles away, in the early 1930's, taking with him his two charming girls. Fern and her sister grew up in Mt. Vernon, got married and moved to different states forsaking all prior knowledge of their family discovery. Orville, likewise, ceased to pursue attempting to arouse the bitter scholars who had neglected him so many times.

“All was quiet for decades, until one balmy day in early summer of 1961 when Michael Paul Henson, the most famous treasure guide writer in the country, approached Orville after reading about the discovery in the Salem courthouse. Excited at the renewed interest, Orville met with Henson and escorted him to the site of the ancient portal.

“Henson, the respected writer of lost treasure books, published the information he had obtained in subsequent releases. Others who

often copied Henson's work also duplicated this twisted tale of discovery long after the death of Orville in 1974.”

At this point, “ABartelt’s” version of the story—although full of details and given to flourishes such as “charming girls” and “bitter scholars” which are not found in Henson’s brief description, at its heart—does not deviate substantially from that 1977 record, which the author repeats on his/her web page. In both accounts we find a cavity, made, or at least sealed, by human hands, and the site has an appearance of “ancient origin.”

**W**e also can still find the story to be quite plausible, even with minor factual differences pertaining to the age of the girls. In fact, Velma, not Fern, was the eldest daughter. In 1925, Velma would have been about seven years old and Fern would have been about five years old. But it’s no stretch of the imagination to think there could be a secret cache near a ravine in which gold might have been hidden, with a stone lid marked for the purpose of helping the original owner find his treasure at some future time. In fact, if we allow that there could have been a cache of gold, apparently the original owner *did* come back for it, as Lowery found merely *traces* of gold, but an otherwise empty cavity.

There is a tantalizing hint in the above narrative, where it is stated that the treasure writer Henson “approached Orville after reading about the discovery in the Salem courthouse.” I followed this hint, and learned that the record—if there was one—would most likely have been made by writers working on a WPA (Works Progress Administration) project called the “Federal Writers’ Project.” The program was part of Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “New Deal” and sought to put writers to work recording local histories, oral traditions, folklore and other narratives for every state in the union (which numbered 48 at the time), between 1936 and 1940.

Armed with this knowledge, I visited the Marion County courthouse and inquired of the records staff if I could see the original story as recorded by the WPA. One staff member was knowledgeable of the WPA project and said that she had looked all through the records in the courthouse herself, but had never found any of them. Even so, I was granted access to the record vault and searched through both the printed and the computerized index, but found no trace of Orville Lowery’s story. After exhausting that potential

source, I turned to the internet and found that the Library of Congress hosts a searchable database containing “approximately 2,900 documents, compiled and transcribed by more than 300 writers from 24 states.”<sup>[17]</sup> There are nearly 24,000 distinct documents, but despite extensive searching, there was not a mention of Orville Lowery’s story in any of them. Of course, there could indeed be a WPA record of Lowery’s find *somewhere*, but I could not locate it in the Marion County courthouse at Salem, Illinois, or in the records of the Library of Congress. I suspect that Michael Paul Henson learned of Lowery’s discovery through word-of-mouth, and sought him out for an interview. Of course, conspiracy theorists might indulge in the belief that the lack—or loss—of evidence is actually due to an elaborate cover-up.

**C**urrently leading the pack of the Lowery Cave conspiracy theorists is a man by the name of Harry Hubbard, who hails from Olney, Illinois. Hubbard was interviewed on April 25, 2013, on Sweden’s “Red Ice Radio,” which, according to the host, Henrik Palmgren, covers investigations of “cover-ups, controversies and conspiracies.” Palmgren, in introducing Hubbard to his audience, proclaimed that Hubbard would comment “on the mainstream archaeological community and the suppression of America’s true history.”

Hubbard believes that ancient peoples from the Mediterranean lived in North America long before Columbus discovered it, first basing this belief on books written in the 1800s that would, in his words, “postulate that the Carthaginians, that the Phoenicians, that the Romans, or some other Mediterranean tribes had been here.” He states in the radio interview that “later in life, I was to learn that they all were here: the Celts, the Vikings, the Egyptians, the Romans, the Phoenicians.”<sup>[18]</sup>



*An artifact reportedly found in the cave, shown by Harry Hubbard, from a video interview owned by Jed Estes<sup>[15]</sup>*

Hubbard is also boldly vocal on his belief that the cave holds artifacts and the bodily remains of both Alexander the Great and Cleopatra.

“... that this cave in Marion County, Illinois, holds the entire crypt of the Ptolemaic Dynasty, including the cadaver of King Alexander the Great, and “Queen of Queens,” Cleopatra.”<sup>[14]</sup>

So, how did we transition from a simple hole in the ground in 1977 to the improbable tomb of ancient Egyptians? Here is Hubbard’s account of the Lowery find, from transcribed excerpts of the “Red Ice Radio” broadcast last April:



*An artifact reportedly found in the cave, shown by Harry Hubbard, from a video interview owned by Jed Estes<sup>[15]</sup>*

Hubbard: [In] 1925, there was a man, who, um, lived in Hickory Hill, Illinois, ... and he is out on a piece of property with his two daughters .... And he’s got his old pickup truck there, and they are picking up, um, stones to make a garden. ... Well, I found out later, the stones they were picking up were actually axe heads, arrow heads, spear heads, just by the bucket...by the truckload. And he would take them and dump them. And, he was out with his two daughters, and his 6-year-old daughter named Fern, um, his name was Orville Lowery, *Fern Lowery*, uh, found a hole on the side of a bluff—there are ravines here, the strata has, um, surfacing sandstone, and the water force, over periods of time has cut these rather large ravines, they’re, oh, 15 to 20 feet deep and 70 to 100 feet wide—and she had found a hole, and her father came over—Orville came over—and he saw some markings, and he saw different things there and he’s like “Wow! This is something really nice.” So he tried to get the, um, scholars, the archaeologists and scholars, involved and interested in it, from the local universities, from Carbondale and Champaign-Urbana. And they didn’t want to hear of it, because they told him that they didn’t have any record of anything there....

Palmgren: Yeah, nice.

Hubbard: And, so, Orville was just, um, perturbed that no one was

interested in it, but then, in the 1930s, the late 1930s, one of the, part of President Roosevelt's New Deal was um, a program called "Wapa," um, "Work Project Assistance" or something like that, and they would hire one person in a township to record local history. And so, uh, Orville got his story into some type of "Wapa" papers, but it was actually entered in the courthouse. Well, uh, there was, what...35 years later, um, in 1961, one of the...America's premier treasure-book writers, named Michael Paul Henson, was...he went from town to town researching ghost towns and ... he knew how to go to these courthouses and to these little county seats and look up the records and find ghost towns, or where places used to be with activity and such and he discovered Orville Lowery's story. At that time, Orville Lowery lived in a village south of us called Mt. Vernon. Actually, Mt. Vernon—all of these towns around here are called "Mount"... Mt. Vernon, Mt. Erie, they're all built on ancient mounds. And Mt. Vernon, actually, is called the "King City" because that's where a king was on the ancient mound when the white people came. So, um, so he found, he got out with Orville Lowery and Orville Lowery actually took him to the site. And Orville was so excited he called his daughter and said "Wow! You know this uh, this guy's actually interested ... 35 years down the road!" So, uh, so Orville was very happy to get his story into the, um, into a treasure book. And then, subsequently, it was recorded in other treasure books."

**H**ubbard's story continues from this point when, in April of 1982, a man by the name of Russell Burrows, from Olney, Illinois, read about the site from the aforementioned treasure books.

Hubbard: [Burrows was] "pulling out artifacts by the hundreds...by the thousands...just amazing artifacts. They all had inscripting [sic] on them, or many, many of them had archaic writing on them. And the scholars called it all a hoax because number one, he wouldn't take them to the site, he wouldn't tell them where it was at, and they couldn't decipher the script. And come to find out many of the scholars who were attempting to decipher the script they were trying to read it backwards. Um, there was a mindset here with our academia, that all things are written from left to right, so that's how they would find to write...read it, and it was written from right to



left mostly, and it's also written back and forth but [illegible] it's written up and down, um, one tablet will be up from the bottom then you flip it over then it's writ up from the bott-...from the other side..."

Palmgren: [chuckle]

**B**urrows supposedly found gold, bodies, statues and inscribed stones in the cave, while looking for an Aztec site. The OLNEY DAILY MAIL of July 27, 1984 ran a story in which Burrows was quoted:



*Russell Burrows at the Lowery Cave site.*

“ ‘The artifacts may be as old as 726 B.C. to 10,000 B.C.,’ said Russell Burrows, Olney, who discovered the site approximately 18 months ago while looking for an Aztec site purported to be in this area.

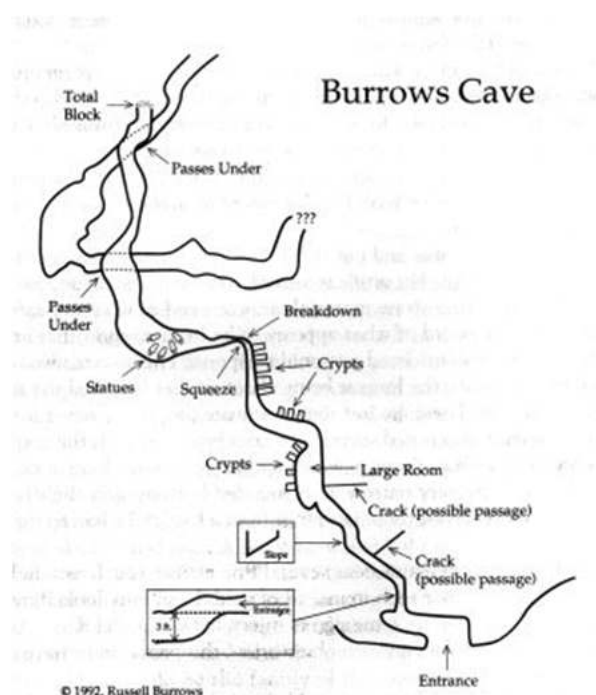
“ ‘The pieces, which have been scrutinized by an anthropologist from a major western university, as well as the site are not ready for public perusal as yet,’ Burrows said.

“He continued that the university will probably begin the dig next year. At that time, more information can be given.

“ ‘Until then,’ he said, ‘the site must be protected from mercenary scavengers, those who would strip the site of these priceless artifacts. I want them preserved for history, since their creators definitely were here far before the peoples that we usually associate with prehistoric American history.’” [6]

Supposedly, after having been hounded by cave enthusiasts, treasure-seekers and others who wanted to prove their pet theories of extraterrestrials, ancient Egyptians and other fringe notions, Russell Burrows’ personal disillusionment led him to dynamite the entrance to the cave in 1989. This was three years before he co-wrote a book with Fred Rydhold titled THE MYSTERY CAVE OF MANY FACES, which was published in 1992.

In 1999, Wayne May, the editor of a magazine called THE ANCIENT AMERICAN, supposedly persuaded Burrows to show him the cave. However, the reported 1989 blast had not only (conveniently?) destroyed the entrance, but collapsed some tunnels and apparently “diverted the flow of an underground river [which resulted in causing] water to gush into the underground complex.”<sup>[7]</sup>



The story further unravels into weird and fantastic claims that Burrows intentionally led May to a *different* cave that he had stumbled upon, rather than show him the Lowery find. A neo-Nazi gets involved, and extraterrestrials make an appearance. Of course, none of these seems far-fetched if you’re willing to accept Hubbard’s theory that within this cave, in America’s heartland, lie the bodies of Alexander the Great and Cleopatra. Sadly, this information comes from dubious authors who call themselves things like “White Trash Peg,”<sup>[12]</sup> so veracity of claims can’t be validated.

So *did* Uncle Orville find a lost treasure? I suspect he found just exactly what was claimed in the 1977 Henson report: an old hole in the ground with markings made by someone who will forever remain a mystery. As to ancient Kings’ remains and hordes of gold? Just call me the “Queen of Denial.”

1 Mt. Vernon Register News Nov. 21, 1966

2 U. S. Social Security Death Index

3 Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910

4 Texas Death Index

5 Mt. Vernon Register News, Jan. 2, 1974

11. Mt. Vernon Register New April 10, 1972

12 [whofortedblog.com/2012/09/23/indiana-jones-olney-illinois/](http://whofortedblog.com/2012/09/23/indiana-jones-olney-illinois/)

13 “A Guide to Treasure in Illinois and Indiana” by Michael Paul Henson, 1977 by Carter/Latham Publishing Co., Inc.

14 “Harry Hubbard Illinois Cave Mummy Interview part 1, Mt. Carmel, Illinois Kiwanis Club meeting. Video by Jed Estes, published on YouTube May 27, 2012

15. “Harry Hubbard Illinois Cave Mummy Interview part 2, video, Jed Estes, published on YouTube May 27, 2012

16 <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/ILMARION/2004-07/1088836273>

17. <http://www.loc.gov/collection/federal-writers-project/about-this-collection/#overview>

18. <http://www.redicecreations.com/radio/2013/04/RIR-130425.php>

6 <http://www.flavinscorner.com/falling.htm>

7 [www.philipcoppens.com](http://www.philipcoppens.com)

8 Daily Herald, Arlington Heights, IL May 14, 1998

9 Mt. Vernon Register News, June 4, 1953

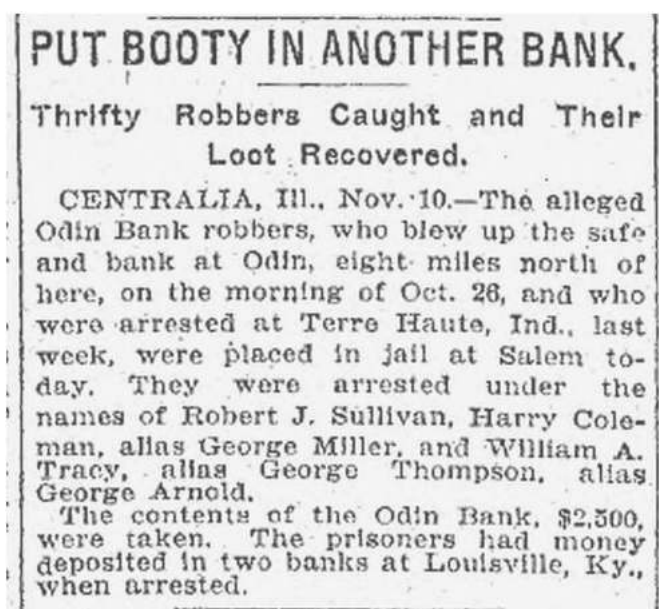
10 Mt. Vernon Register News, May 28, 1965

# The Odin Bank Robbery

*From the Jan. 3, 1908 DAILY ILLINOIS STATE JOURNAL of Springfield, IL*



picture printed on a postal card, recognized by Mark Shipley of the Fidelity Casualty Company, led to the capture of William A. Tracy, bank robber and two term ex-convict, who is wanted in Odin, Illinois, for complicity in the blowing of the Odin National Bank safe in September, 1906. In charge of Sheriff M. W. Michael of Salem, Illinois, his son [Clarence], and Mark Shipley, Tracy was brought to St. Louis this morning and will be taken to Odin later.



*Clip from November 11, 1906 edition of NEW YORK TIMES*

Following the robbing of the Odin bank, three bandits engaged in a running fire with the citizens, two narrowly escaping serious injury. The trio, Tracy, Henry Coleman and another, were captured a short time later. Tracy obtained bond and shortly after Coleman was sentenced to from two to twenty years in the penitentiary, Tracy jumped his bond.

A few days before Christmas, two suspicious characters were arrested as vagrants by the town marshal of Cooperstown, N. D. In their possession was found a complete kit of safe blowers' tools.

The marshal had their photographs taken on postal cards and sent them around the country. Shipley, on a visit to police headquarters, saw the picture, and recognized Tracy.

He wired the marshal to hold Tracy, and with Sheriff Michael left St. Louis last Saturday. Tracy readily admitted his identity to Shipley and offered to return without papers.

Tracy, who is also known as Graham, which name he gave in Cooperstown, has served two terms in the Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary. He is regarded as one of the most desperate crooks in a class known as “town shooters,” after their habit of engaging in pistol fights with posses and citizens who seek to protect their banks against burglars. At the time the Odin bank was robbed the men obtained about \$2,000.



*Sheriff Malachi Michael with wife, Sarah and son, Clarence.*

## The Salem Bank Robbery

*From the February 19, 1890 QUINCY DAILY HERALD, Quincy, Il*

**S**alem, Ill., February 18.—There is still no clew [*sic*] to the Salem National bank robbers. The hunt for them is still going on. It is now thought that the silver taken, which weighed over 100 pounds, is secreted somewhere about or near the town, and considerable search for it has already been made but no traces found.

Representatives of the different safe manufactories are still here and view with wonder the expertness of the safe-cracking job. The head mechanic of the firm that constructed the safe robbed arrived this morning. He said the job was the most complete ever known in the country, and that the cracksmen had gotten in advance of safe makers.

The bank has received hundreds of letters and messages from all parts of the country inquiring for full particulars of the robbery. Almost every writer asks, “Whose make of safe is it.” But if they should come and examine the wrecked safe the question as to who made it would be of little consequence, as it is hardly possible that any safe could withstand being wrecked with the new process used by the robbers. It is estimated that the entire job was done inside of one hour and a half.

The business of the bank is going on as usual, with ample funds. Cashier Randolph Smith, of the Flora National bank, was here last night and proffered the bank all the funds needed, and other banks have made like offers, but its funds are ample without outside aid.

## Bryan Turns Down Filipino Bribe



*photo: PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN WAR, 1899-1902 written by Arnaldo Dumindin, 2006*

**I**n William Jennings Bryan's bid for the Presidency of the United States in 1900, Paul G. Pierpaoli writes, "Perhaps Bryan's singular weapon in the 1900 election was his use of the Philippine-American War and its ties to American imperial expansion. Arguing that the war was fatally executed and that the United States should accommodate the Filipino insurgency by pledging to support Philippine independence with all due

haste, Bryan made it clear—without saying so specifically—that he would bring an immediate end to the war in the Philippines.

“Aguinaldo, who was a shrewd politician as well as an effective military leader, saw the 1900 election as a way to end the Philippine-American War more or less on his terms. As early as the summer of 1899, he made plans for a series of broad and punishing assaults against American forces all across the Philippine Islands. His strategy was simple: cause as much damage to American forces as possible, undermine Americans' faith in the war effort, and tip the election in the Democrats' favor.”<sup>[1]</sup>



*Emilio Famy Aguinaldo was a Filipino general, politician, and independence leader. He had an instrumental role during the Philippines' revolution against Spain, and the subsequent Philippine–American War. Source: Wikipedia*

From the July 12, 1901 edition of Canton Ohio's STARK COUNTY DEMOCRAT, we have this story:

Salem, Ills., July 10.—William J. Bryan, who is in this city visiting his sister, confirmed the statement that Aguinaldo's agents attempted to corrupt him during the last presidential campaign. Mr. Bryan read carefully an article published in reference to the matter. He nodded affirmatively as his eyes passed over the statement that told of the offer of the leader of the Filipinos. Having finished he laid down the paper and said: "Yes, that statement is substantially correct."

Mr. Bryan then explained how the offer was made and refused. Sometime before the emissaries of Aguinaldo called at the Hoffman house in New York last fall, Mr. Bryan received a letter telling him that Aguinaldo's representatives would call, and they would make the proposition to Mr.

In addition they would promise for the Filipino leader that he would surrender if the Nebraskan were elected, and that the surrender would be immediate and unconditional. In return they would exact a promise that a reasonable form of government, founded on the principles in force in the United States, be given to the Filipinos.

To all these appeals the Nebraskan was deaf. He not only refused to see them, but he refused to delegate to any one in authority to consider the proposition they might make.

<sup>1</sup> Paul G. Pierpaoli Jr. "The Encyclopedia of the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars: A Political, Social and Military History, Vol. 1" edited by Spencer Tucker. 2009

30

# An Uncommon Day

*By Fenwick Anderson, April 5, 1975 DAILY ILLINI, University of Illinois*

**M**onday [March 31<sup>st</sup>] was a decidedly uncommon day in Salem, birthplace of the Great Commoner, William Jennings Bryan. Bryan, the Democrats' presidential nominee in 1896, 1900, and 1908, was a three-time loser in a nation that worships success, but Salem hasn't forgotten its most famous native son.

Paul Simon, now a U. S. representative, was on hand for a short ceremony marking the accomplishment of two longtime goals of Salem and its retiring mayor, C. L. McMackin II. First, the home in which Bryan was born on March 19, 1860, was added to the National Park Service list of historic sites. Secondly, the city acquired legal title to a Bryan statue it "stole" in 1961.

Bryan lived in the home (built for his parents in 1852) until he was six years old, when the family moved to a nearby farm. Eventually, he bought the home and gave it to the city, along with the public library next door, which Salem hopes to turn into a Bryan museum. Now that the home is an official historic site, it's eligible for funds to restore the second floor.

The front rooms are already filled with the paraphernalia common to such places: a tiny "Death to Trusts" skeleton which opens to show Bryan. A 1908 button using the still innocent swastika to wish good luck. The chair he used as secretary of state under President Woodrow Wilson, badly in need of reupholstering. Life masks, a silver toothpick case, a campaign soap baby in a box.





The bronze statue in Bryan Memorial Park was sculpted by Gutzon Borglum, created of the presidential faces on Mt. Rushmore. From 1934-1960, it occupied a place of honor along the Rock Creek Parkway in the nation's capital, but was removed because of road construction.



The Interior Department then agreed to loan Salem the statue, a controversial move since none of its statues had ever been taken from Washington. The Salem men who went to Washington to pick the statue up found it lying on the ground.

It was erected anew in 1961, but it took three years, seven trips to Washington and an act of Congress to put the stamp of legality on Salem's permanent possession of the statue.

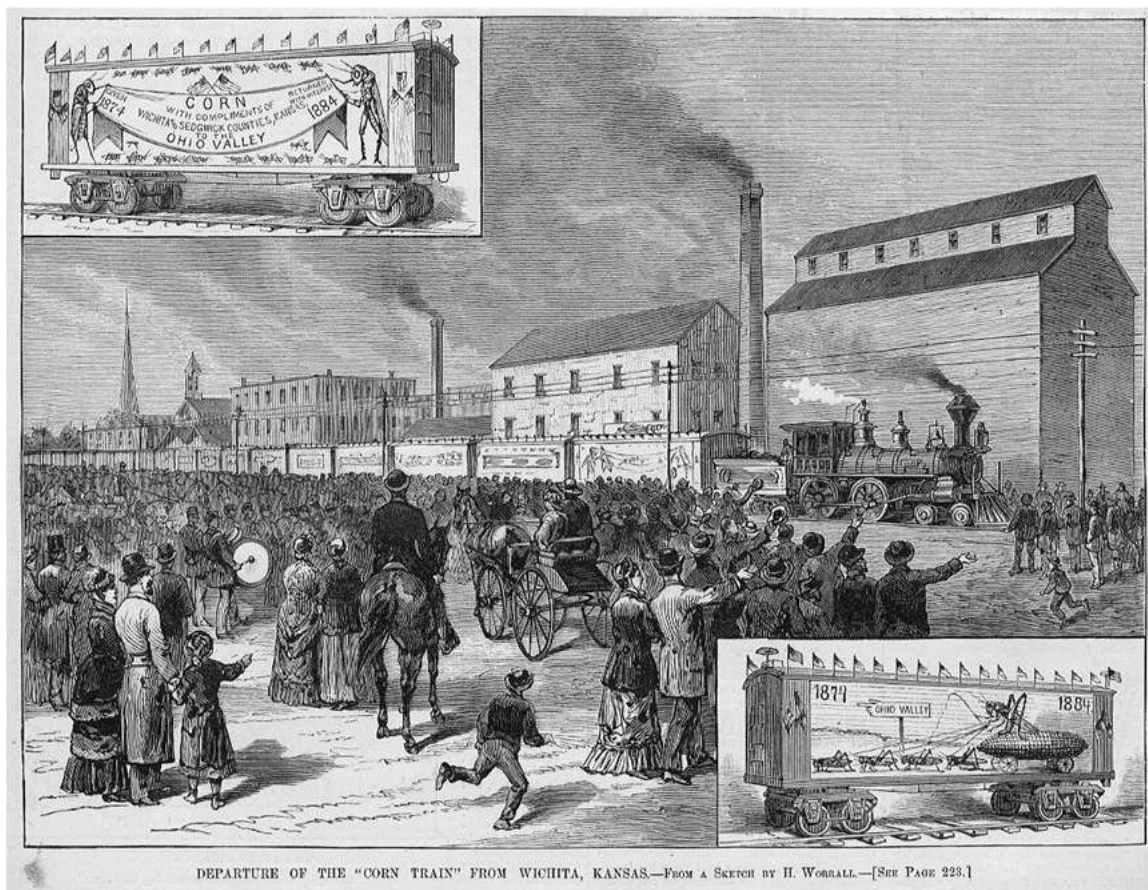
At Monday's ceremony, attended by about 50 townspeople, Congressman Simon remarked that whereas individuals need only ask where they are and where they're going, communities must also ask where they've been. All speeches were brief and informal, an ironic contrast to the stem-winding oratory that made Bryan famous in the pre-radio-TV-talkies era when oratory was an art form and a source of entertainment.

Bryan left Salem in 1875 and became more closely associated in the public mind with Nebraska. But the story goes that he frequently passed through on the train and called people to announce that "Billy" Bryan was in town. He was even the commencement speaker when young John Scopes graduated from Salem High.

Billy Bryan has rested in Arlington National Cemetery since the rigors of the Scopes monkey trial killed him in 1925, and he never did make it to the White House, but Salem remembers anyway.



# Sedgwick Corn Train



*April 1884 HARPER'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY*

## *A Warming Sight*

*From the April 3, 1884 WICHITA EAGLE, Wichita, Kansas*

The postmaster at Sandoval, Illinois, writes us that never, since the time when Israel saw the cloud of fire pass before them, had such a warming sight greeted people's eyes as the Sedgwick Corn Train which passed through his town on the 31st of March, bound for the relief of suffering humanity.

**S**o what exactly was the Sedgwick Corn Train? Stan Hoig writes about the train in his 2007 book (published by University of New Mexico Press), *COWTOWN WICHITA AND THE WILD, WICKED WEST*:

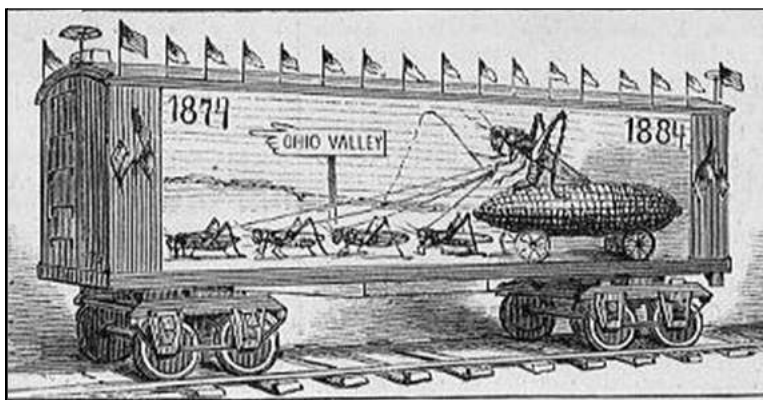
“An event designed in part to show the economic advancement of Wichita and Sedgwick County took place in the spring of 1884. It was initiated by a letter to the EAGLE from W. C. Woodman, Wichita's pioneer banker, who suggested that help be sent to flood victims of the Ohio Valley. In 1874, when Kansas had been invaded by swarms of crop-destroying locusts, people of the Midwestern states had sent help. Now, Woodman suggested, the people of Sedgwick County should return that favor. He offered the first fifty dollars to raise funds for provisions.

“The idea took hold, and from it grew the concept of a “corn train”—thirty-one railroad cars loaded with Sedgwick County corn to be sent to the people of the Ohio Valley. The train departed Wichita on the morning of March 17, 1884 accompanied by Mayor Greiffenstein and three other representatives of the area. A large crowd and a brass band saw the train off, and a picture of it later appeared in HARPER'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY.

“The sides of the cars were emblazoned with signs and pictures. One car carried the image of a giant ear of corn on wagon wheels being drawn toward the Ohio Valley by a team of grasshoppers with a huge grasshopper wielding the whip. Still another depicted two grasshoppers holding a car-length sign reading:

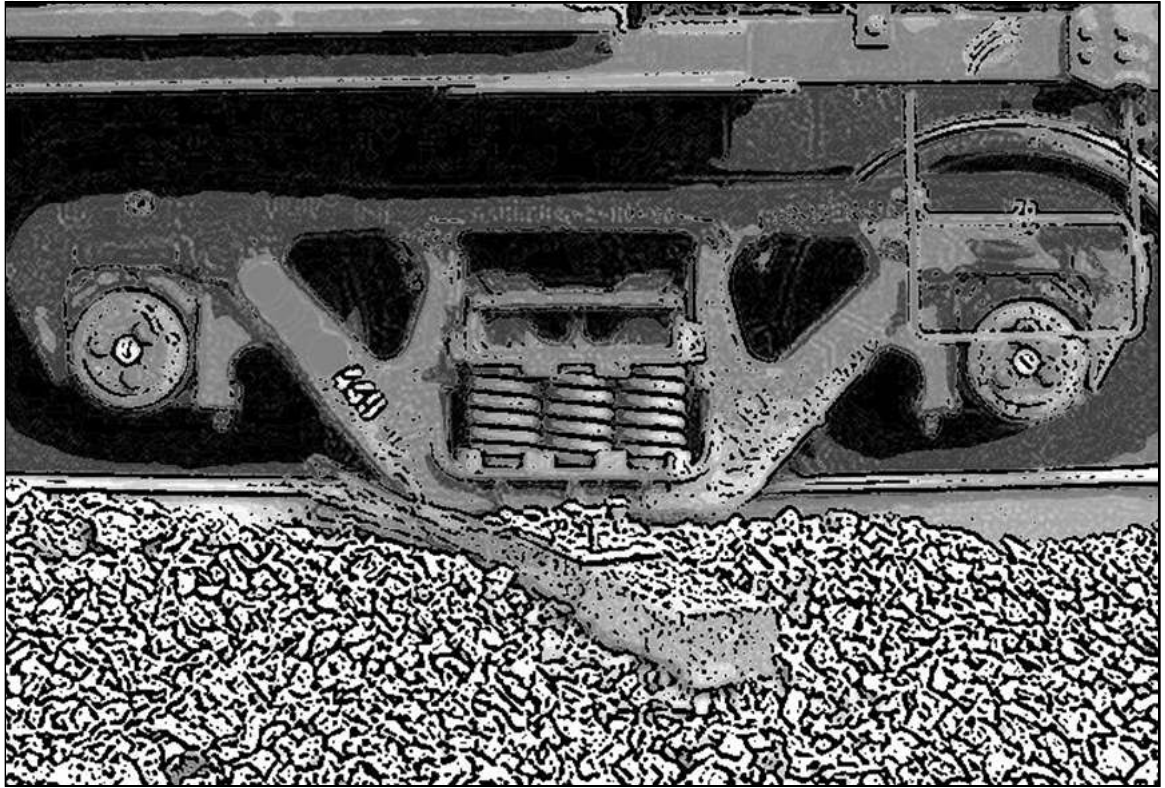
Given 1874—Returned with Interest 1884, Compliments of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas, to the Ohio Valley.

“Recipients of the gift, however, were nonplussed as to what could be done with the generous gift. When it was suggested that perhaps it could be made into corn whiskey and sold to raise money for the flood victims, some of the citizens back in Sedgwick County were a bit miffed. Nonetheless, the Kansas men were toasted and feted by the Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce.”



# Wrecking and Robbing the B & O

*From the June 18, 1897 THE EVENING HERALD Shenandoah, PA*



St. Louis—E. P. Garner, car accountant of the Wabash railway, with offices in East St. Louis, brought to this city yesterday details of the attempt to wreck and rob a Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern passenger train on a culvert between Odin and Salem, Illinois, about 55 miles east of St. Louis.

There were three men involved in the attempted wrecking, and two of them were caught, one of them being fatally shot. The would-be robbers are residents of Salem, and were known about the village as hard characters.

Abe Tweed, the robber who was shot, was out on parole from Chester, Illinois. Thomas Schumacker, the other man captured, is an ex-convict from the Indiana penitentiary on his own confession.

These two men, the one who escaped, and a fourth, banded together not long ago to do a general business in the criminal line. After they had planned to hold up the New York express on the Baltimore & Ohio Southwestern the

men had a difference, and the plans were broken up in a row. One of them told Sheriff Barnes, upon the sheriff's promise to protect him and not divulge his name, of the plan to wreck and loot the train, but he said he did not know the date and place selected. He promised to find out and report these particulars, and he kept his word. Returning to his former pals, he said he was sorry he had left them and begged to be let in on the fat thing they were about to pull off. The rogues relented, took back the deserter, and then proceeded to lay bare the plot.

**B**eing posted by his convert, Sheriff Barnes Wednesday night collected a posse of six men and started from Salem along the track. When they came near Schennafelt culvert the three robbers could be seen, and almost in the interior of the trestle was a high pile of ties thrown across the express train's track.

Sheriff Barnes and his posse got within 30 yards of the wreckers before they were discovered. When they saw they were caught the wreckers ran down the side of the embankment. The express train was due in about 20 minutes. Sending back two of his men to flag it, the sheriff, Mr. Garner and others went after the robbers.

"Halt," cried Sheriff Barnes, and one of the robbers, who turned out to be Schumacker, surrendered. The other two continued to run, and Garner fired. A man who proved to be Tweed fell, and Garner sent two more bullets after his fleeing partner. Neither shot took effect, and the man escaped.

The prisoners were taken to the Salem jail and locked up. Tweed cannot live. The robbers admitted that they intended to rob the train, but denied that they wished to derail the engine or touch any of the money in the express car. They said they had designs only on the occupants of the six or seven sleeping cars, and placed the ties on the tracks only to force the engine to come to a stop. Then they were to board the sleepers, lock the conductors and porters in the toilet rooms, and hold up the passengers.

It is said that the train carried more than \$100,000 in the express car. The trainmen are confident that if the engine had run into the pile of ties, it, with several cars, undoubtedly would have been derailed and thrown down the embankment, entailing a great loss of life.

# The Kagay Reunion at Tifflin, Ohio

*Nov. 17, 1887 THE HOCKING SENTINEL Logan, OH*

**W**e publish below from the Seneca Advertiser of Oct. 13th, a notice of the reunion of the noted and numerous Kagay family. Our able contributor, Martin Kagay, of Somerset, and the Kanode family of Logan, are relatives.

The Kagays\*, who are numerous in this country, and who have branched out into almost every State and Territory in the Union, held a grand family reunion at the residence of our fellow citizen, Dr. Isaac Kagay, south of this city, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 5 and 6. Wednesday was spent in receiving and introducing arrivals from a distance, and in seeking election of officers, etc. The officers elected were: President—Franklin Kagay of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; Vice Presidents—John C. Kagay, of Ashland, Ohio; Joseph G. Kagay of Hanover, Pennsylvania; and John B. Kagay, of Salem, Illinois; Secretary—Levi M. Kagay, of Salem, Illinois; Treasurer—Dolly Brubaker, of Iuka, Illinois.

The committee on biographical data consists of Dr. Isaac Kagay, of this county; Joseph R. Kagay, of Findlay; Joseph B. Kagay, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Anna M. Wayland, of Hawkinstown, Virginia; and Joseph G. Kagay, of Hanover, Penn.

The speaking was conducted by Dr. Kagay, Franklin Kagay, Philip Kagay, of Iowa; Miss Bettie Kagay and Mrs. Freed, of Fayette county, Penn; D. H. Patterson, John Kagay, J. L. Hershberger, Joseph G. Kagay and Rudolph Kagay.

Thus closed the first day. In everything of this kind that continues for more than one day, there must always be a “big day,” and so it was on this occasion. Early Thursday morning the roads in the vicinity of “Vine Hill” were strewn with buggies and vehicles destined for the Mecca of outpouring love and gratulations [sic]. When the reporter of the ADVERTISER arrived in the large lawn of Dr. Kagay's residence, the grounds were alive with several hundred pleased and happy people. The Honey Creek band furnished the outdoor music, while singing, with piano and other instrumental music, was had in the parlors.

One table of ninety-six feet in length occupied a position in front of an out building, while two other tables of twenty feet each occupied temporary alcoves, tastefully lined with muslin overhead and at the sides, with floors carpeted, where the aged guests were comfortably seated. In this building was improvised a temporary kitchen, where coffee and tea, red hot, were prepared. Two hundred and forty persons took dinner, of whom more than two hundred were relatives. The day was lovely.

Dinner over, the crowd were invited into the double parlors in the house, where the meeting was called to order by President Franklin Kagay and J. R. Kagay, of Findlay, by invitation of the chair, made a neat and well-timed welcome address, in which he reviewed the history of the family from the landing of the common ancestor at Philadelphia in 1715. He was followed by Judge J. B. Kagay, of Salem, Illinois, in a most pathetic and eloquent address. Franklin Kagay, who has been engaged in a genealogical work for twelve years, gave an account of his labors and success in finding branches of the family of which he had no knowledge, only a few years ago. The Kagays have a printed record, which they are now revising, and which they purpose to publish in the near future.

The place and the day were all that could be desired for the occasion, which will never be forgotten by many kindred who met on this occasion, for the first time. While the exercises were going on in the house, Donaldson, of this city, assisted by a corps of helpers, erected out of the tables an elevated platform for taking a photographic view of the relatives which was taken at the close of the exercises.

The company lingered long in re-shaking of hands, reiterated “adieu” and “God-bless-yous” as if loath to leave the enchanting scene!

\* In Marion County, Illinois, the typical spelling is “Kagy”



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# A Secret Marriage in Odin

*From the Nov. 19, 1890 THE MANNING TIMES, Manning, SC*

St. Louis, MO., Nov. 6—An extraordinary case has developed through the filing of an application for a change of name by Miss Theresa Blennerhassett, a member of the historical family of that name. The petitioner is the daughter of Richard S. Blennerhassett, the youngest son of [Harman] Blennerhassett of Burr conspiracy fame.



*Harman Blennerhassett*

She states in the petition that Oct. 10, 1871, at Odin, Illinois, she was married to John Calvin Adams, and lived with him until November, 1871, but that at the instance of her family she kept her marriage a secret. Her husband was killed a few weeks after the marriage, and so, still at the solicitation of her family, she continued to be known as Theresa Blennerhassett.

In August, 1872, she gave birth to a female child, who was always known as Mary Blennerhassett. Petitioner says her mother and all the other members of her family are dead, save a twin brother, and her family patronymic is a historic name of which she is justly proud. Moreover, she has acquired property since her husband's death, the title of which is invested in her maiden name of Theresa Blennerhassett. She prays the court to fix and establish her legal name as Theresa Blennerhassett Adams.

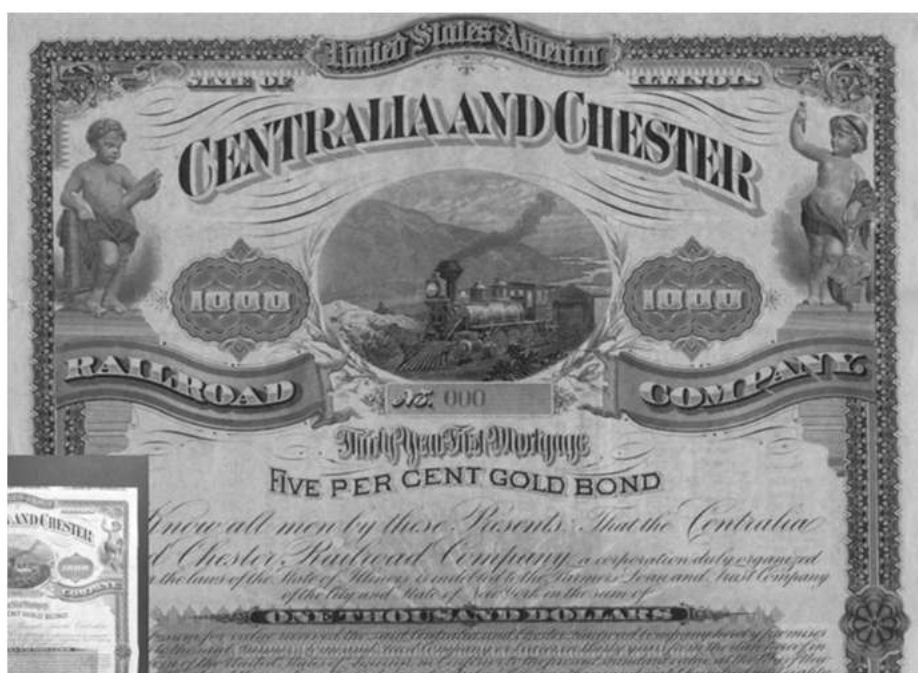
The story back of this petition is romantic. Theresa Blennerhassett, in spite of the bitter opposition of her relatives, fell in love with Adams, who was a traveler for a St. Louis business house. She went on an ostensible visit to relatives at Odin, and there met and married her lover, and together they went on a flying trip to the East. She returned to her home on account of the sudden illness of her mother, and arranged with her husband to follow her in three weeks. He did so, but was thrown from the train by an accident and killed.

The world was in ignorance of the clandestine marriage, and was unfortunately kept so, even after the birth of the child. The advent of the



little one was kept a secret, and Theresa Blennerhassett in due time announced that she had adopted a little girl. Her child has grown up in ignorance of her true relation to her foster mother, and is now a beautiful girl of 18. The present proceedings, which lay bare a family secret, are brought as much to protect the girl and insure her title, as they are to satisfy the mother's longings to have her legal status defined. Theresa Blennerhassett is now about fifty years old and has always been looked upon as an old maid.

## Centralia & Chester Railroad



long and glowing advertisement for the sale of bonds appeared in THE BURLINGTON FREE PRESS of Vermont on March 19, 1896, extolling the virtues of the Centralia & Chester Railroad Company and the land upon which it was built. The description follows:

The Centralia and Chester Railroad is a standard-gauge road extending from its connection with the Illinois Central Railroad at Centralia, Illinois, to Evansville, Illinois, with a branch to Rosborough, Illinois, and is in first class financial and physical condition, bonded for only \$12,000 per mile on First Mortgage five per cent bonds, which are a first and only lien on the road bed, equipment, depots, terminal facilities, and any and all property of the company.

The road passes through a thickly populated and fertile agricultural district producing enormous crops of cereals. The United States Government statistics show that there were produced in a single year in the five counties through which this road passes, 3,554,501 bushels of wheat, 2,598,991 bushels of corn, 2,751,364 bushels of oats, 114,993 tons of hay, 141,930 bushels of potatoes, and 67,000 barrels of apples. The greater part of the products of three counties seek a market over the Centralia and Chester Railroad, it being the only direct outlet to Chicago, via the Illinois Central Railroad, and to New Orleans and tide water, via, the Mobile and Ohio R. R. and Mississippi River.

The entire country through which this road passes is underlaid with coal, making the supply inexhaustible, and large mines are now open at Centralia, Nashville, Coulterville, Sparta, Rosborough and Schulines.

**T**he Randolph Coke and Coal Co., an organization with a capitalization of \$500,000 is now successfully operating several very large coal mines and 102 coke ovens on the line of this road in the vicinity of Sparta. The coke business is a new and very important industry in this locality and is proving of very great value as a freight producer to the Centralia and Chester road.

A connection will be made within the next few weeks at Salem with the Ohio and Mississippi R. R. (which is the Baltimore and Ohio system) giving a direct outlet to the East. At Salem, a connection will also be made with the Chicago, Paducah and Memphis R. R., which will give the Centralia and Chester R. R. another direct outlet to Chicago via the Chicago, Paducah and Memphis and Wabash railroads.

The short piece of road between Evansville and Chester on the Mississippi river will be completed by October 1<sup>st</sup> next. The railroad company is just closing the purchase of a large block of land with about one-half mile of frontage on the Mississippi River at Chester, where the company proposes to put in side track and build docks, running the main line into the city of Chester. The company will put in a side track to the Penitentiary, which will also give the road a large amount of business from their large output of manufactured goods.

**T**he docks as well as the land will be owned and controlled by the Railroad Company, and covered by the first mortgage bonds of the Railroad Company; the docks will afford an opportunity to the barge tows going up the river to drop off their empty barges at the docks of the Company, to be filled with coal and taken down the river again on their return trip from St. Louis, thus saving about 200 miles of towing from Chester to St. Louis and return, and also saving a charge of [illegible] per car, charged by the docks at East St. Louis, where coal is loaded on the barge at that point. With this connection made with the Mississippi River, it



will give the coal miners a most direct outlet for their products to the Cairo, Memphis and New Orleans markets, and give to the shippers of grain for the foreign markets a cheaper and more direct connection with ocean transportation at New Orleans than via any other line.

Since the agreement of the Railroad Company with the Randolph Coke and Coal Co., to give them this outlet, arrangements have been made by several independent parties to open up coal mines on the line of the Centralia and Chester R. R. which will give it at least five times the present coal traffic.

During the last fiscal year, without the Evansville extension or the Rosborough branch in operation, the Company earned not only the interest on its mortgage, over and above operating expenses, taxes, etc., but a small surplus on the stock, and this at a time when the transportation business of the entire country was practically paralyzed by the great railroad and coal strikes.

With the addition to the property of the Evansville extension and the Rosborough branch, both of which are now in operation, and the improved financial and industrial situation throughout the country, the gross and net

earnings of the Company for the fiscal year ending July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1896, will far exceed anything in the history of the road, and should show in addition to all fixed charges and expenses a large surplus, and it is not unreasonable to expect that by January next the Company will begin paying regular dividends on its stock.

From the above facts it must be evident to any business man that there is no risk or speculation whatever in buying the first mortgage bonds of the Centralia and Chester Railroad, passing as it does through an old and well-populated country so rich in agricultural and mineral resources, and bonded for only \$12,000 per mile of first mortgage 5 per cent bonds which is only about half the bonded indebtedness of any other railroad in this part of the country.

Over \$800,000 of these bonds are now held for investment by many of the large Insurance Companies, Savings Banks, and some of the richest and most conservative investors in the country.

*Signed, Griwold & Gillette, 64-68 Broadway, N. Y.*

## Act of Kindness Leads to Escape

*From the Jan. 31, 1907 KINMUNDY EXPRESS, Kinmundy, IL*

**D**idn't Say Good-bye: Last Thursday night, the hardware of Simcox and McMackin in Salem was burglarized and a quantity of cutlery taken. As usual the news was telephoned to the neighboring towns and to keep a lookout for the robbers.

On Friday night, a stranger appeared on our streets and was trying to dispose of some new pocket knives. City Marshal Flannigan soon had the supposed burglar in his clutches and could almost hear the reward (\$15) jingle in his pocket.



The man was lodged in the city bastille and the Sheriff at Salem notified. Saturday morning, Sheriff Michael came up from Salem and brought with

him cutlery from the burglarized store which exactly matched that found on the prisoner, and he was sure the right party had been captured.

Everything went all right till noon when City Marshal Flannigan went to the calaboose to give the prisoner a nice warm meal and behold his bird had flown. He had been allowed to stay in the front part of the calaboose on account of the cold weather and with the help of someone on the outside, he had pried the door open at the bottom so as to escape.

The front door fastens with two iron straps—one at the top, and one at the bottom. The top one is locked with a pad lock and the lower one was just slipped over the staple, and somebody had slipped the strap from off the staple and handed the prisoner a heavy barrel stave and a half brick, and with these tools he made his escape, but the door was not in very good shape after he escaped.

This prisoner was very ungrateful and did not seem to appreciate the conveniences of the parlor in the city jail and the next time he comes to Kinmundy and has to be locked up, we would suggest that he be placed in a cell and then perhaps he will be there at meal time. He should be arrested for leaving town just at dinner time and without saying good bye.



# Denizens of the “Glory World”

*a sampling of obituaries from various sources*



## EDWARD WILLETT TOBIN

*From the Jan. 9, 1900 DAILY ILLINOIS STATE REGISTER, Springfield, IL*

**T**he funeral of E. W. Tobin took place yesterday morning at 11 o'clock from the residence, six miles southeast of the city. The services were conducted by the Rev. G. W. Dungan. The funeral was largely attended. Interment was at Oak Ridge.

Edward Willett Tobin was born July 6, 1829, in Guernsey County, Ohio, and died Jan. 4, 1900, after an illness of ten weeks. He spent his early days on a farm and [illegible] the tanners trade during his youth.

The gold excitement in California attracted his attention and in 1850 he went there, going via Central America. After spending three years among the gold fields he returned to Illinois and for two years was engaged in feeding and handling livestock. At the end of that period he went into the mercantile business in Sandoval, Marion County, Ill., but after one year's time he came to Sangamon County and has since been engaged in agricultural pursuits.

In March, 1870, he located on the present home place, five miles south of Springfield, and had lived here uninterruptedly until his death. Sept. 5, 1854, he was married at Sandoval, Ill., to Delight S. Martin, also a native of Ohio. One daughter, Annie, died in 1863 at the age of 5 years.

Besides his widow he is survived by four children, Wesley Tobin and Mrs. Chas. B. McClelland, of Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. Abram C. Byers, of Kennard, Neb., and Edward W. Tobin, Jr., of Chicago, and also by one sister and four brothers.

He was sick ten weeks, and part of the time his sufferings were severe and seemed to be aware that it would prove a fatal sickness; and once remarked, "that he would soon be where the howling storms could not reach him," and also made the necessary arrangements in regard to his temporal affairs. He was an honorable man of high standing among his neighbors and acquaintances on account of his fair and upright dealing, his kindness, and regard for his word. He was also a loving father, and an affectionate husband.



## **MINNIE E. HISLOP**

*From the Nov. 18, 1941 JOPLIN GLOBE, Joplin, MO*

**M**rs. Minnie E. Hislop, 71 years old, widow of Charles Hislop, who operated a grocery in Villa Heights for 30 years prior to his death in 1937, died of a heart attack late Sunday night at her home, 2652 East Eighth street.

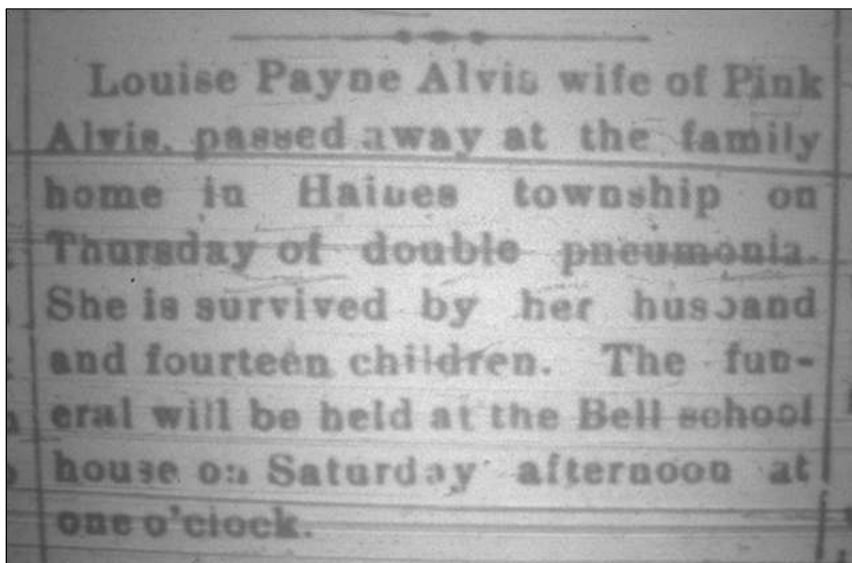
Mrs. Hislop was born January 4, 1871, in Marion County, Illinois, and came here with her husband in 1907. She had lived since that time at the family home. She had been in failing health for a number of years and suffered six heart attacks Saturday and Sunday.

She was a member of the First Community church and Ruth chapter, O. E. S. (Order of the Eastern Star).

Surviving are two daughters, Miss Ruth Hislop of the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company business office, who resides at the home, and Mrs. Mary Johnson of Kansas City; a brother, Alph Rees of Coalinga, Calif.; a half-brother, Nolan Rees of Kansas City, and several nieces and nephews. The Hurlbut Undertaking Company received the body.

## **LOUISE PAYNE ALVIS**

*From the February 10, 1911 SALEM HERALD-ADVOCATE, Salem, IL*



**L**ouise Payne Alvis, wife of Pink Alvis, passed away at the family home in Haines township on Thursday of double pneumonia. She is survived by her husband and fourteen children. The funeral will be held at the Bell schoolhouse on Saturday afternoon at one o'clock.



## **JAMES CARROLL REESE**

*From the Sept.. 16, 1905 IOLA DAILY REGISTER, Iola, KS*

**J**ames Carroll Reese was born in Marion County, Illinois, June 22, 1848, and died at his home in Kincaid, Kansas, Sept. 1, 1905, aged 57 years, 2 months and 9 days. At the age of eight or nine years his mother having died and his father marrying again, he went to live with his cousin, Colonel Boothe, and staid till he was nineteen years old, when he went to Christian County, where he met Miss Isabell J. Hudson and they were married at Morrisonville August 27, 1872.



They started west and finally located in [illegible]nson County, Kansas, in 1876. They lived there until 1881 when they moved to Allen County, and to Kincaid in 1895.

For years he had suffered with rheumatism and in 1890 he was stricken with paralysis and was partially helpless, till February [illegible] when he fell and broke his [illegible]. From that time he has been [illegible] and a great sufferer. He has often prayed for death to release him. For several weeks he has been gradually failing. He was conscious until the last. A couple of hours before he passed away he pointed up with his crippled arm and said "A light."

---

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**[www.marioncountyillinoishistory.com](http://www.marioncountyillinoishistory.com)**

Membership includes ***Footprints In Marion County***, which is published four times each year. You can join the Society at any point in the year, and any "catch-up" quarterlies for that membership year will be sent to you along with your membership card.



Send your check + **Name | Address | City | State | Zip**  
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