

ST. ANNE CENTENNIAL 1850-1950

THE STORY OF THE ST. ANNE COMMUNITY

THE INDIANS

When the first traders and later the first settlers came to this region of Illinois, they found as owners of the soil the Pottawatomies. They were of the great Algonquin family. In the early enumeration of the tribes it is said they spoke the pure Algonquin dialect. They came to this area about 1700, being previously located near Lakes Huron and Michigan.

The Pottawatomies were great hunters and fishers and were warlike. Their wives raised corn and vegetables. They knew how to make succotash which, to this day, is an Indian specialty.

The Indians were aligned with the French until their overthrow by the English in 1712. During the Revolutionary War, they fought with the British army, making raids on settlements in New York and Pennsylvania. In the massacre of Chicago in 1812, they were the principal actors, being the wildest, most vicious and relentless of the warriors.

Scattered throughout Kankakee County were the villages of Yellowhead, near Sherburnville; Waiskuks, near Aroma Park; Shemorgar, or Soldier's Village in Kankakee; Shawanasee's at Rock Creek; besides various smaller groups, here and there, where hunting was good.

Of the several chiefs, one stood out as the chief of chiefs. Shabonna, who deserves special mention. He was born on the Kankakee River about 1775. He became chief at an early age and took up residence at Shabonna's Grove in DeKalb County. He was noted for his friendship for the white man, always making every effort to protect the settlers from the horrors of Indian warfare. Though he took part in the War of 1812 with Tecumseh, against the Americans, he was soundly defeated when Tecumseh fell, yet he seemed to appreciate the utter futility of continuing hostile to the white settlers. In Black Hawk's war, the Sacs and Foxes sought to induce him to

join them. He refused. He was dubbed "the white man's friend," but he continued at peace with the settlers.

Shabonna was given a reservation, two sections of land, by the government, including his home, which he abandoned, when, by the treaty of Tippecanoe, he was ordered to lead his tribe to their new reservation in western Iowa. He died in 1859.

No less notable than Shabonna was Shawanasee, whose village, located on Rock Creek, was one of the oldest and largest in the county. In 1830, was held at his village the lost great Indian council, which eventually led to their removal to Iowa. He died in 1832. By 1838, the last of the Indians had gone to their new home. The government appointed Noel LeVasseur to direct the removal of the lost party, about 500 of them. This accomplished, the only Indians seen later were those who come to call on old friends and to visit the groves of their loved ones; to renew acquaintances and to once again stroll over the prairies, which, at one time meant so much to them.

Let it be said that the Indians loved above all else, their home, their family and thier friends.

EARLY SETTLERS

Until 1848, the region about St. Anne was a wild prairie with marsh land here and there, whose inhabitants were the buffalo, deer, beaver, fox, wolf and other fur bearing animals. The marshes abounded with waterfowl-the duck, goose, crane, heron, etc. Prairie chickens, quails, grouse and pheasants lived in the uplands.

In the 1840s, the government completed the survey of all the land in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. In 1848, Ambrose and Antoine Allain, brothers, came from Canada to Bourbonnais and two years later hauled their small belongings southward to become St. Anne's first settlers; they built their homes on what they thought was the highest elevation hereabouts, this being the spot where the Catholic church now stands. Logs were used. One of the homes was 25 feet by 30 feet and the other 16 feet by

20 feet. Our old friend, Ambrose Allain, Jr., was born in one of these houses in 1852.

Some fifteen years after Bourbonnais and Momence were first settled, the Catholic bishop delegated Father Chiniquy to go to Illinois and somewhere in the Kankakee River country, establish one or more missions. He arrived in Chicago in October 1851 and a month later and after much traveling about, decided to build his mission where the Allains were making their homes. This mission was known for a time as Beaver Mission.

By December 1, the residents of this mission numbered two hundred souls, the men predominating in number. Parcels of land were obtained by potent from the government, or by purchase from speculators. Everyone was imbued with a spirit of co-operation, which expressed itself in the erection of forty log cabins by the end of January 1852. The logs were hewn in the "grandbois" (great woods) to the east of the settlement. But there still was no place of worship except in private homes. Under the leadership of their pastor, a two-story building was erected, also of logs, which housed the chapel upstairs and the parsonage downstairs. The dimensions were 40 feet by 40 feet and was completed and dedicated April 17, 1852. Seventy men were used in its erection. A few months later the building was extended 40 feet at the rear, making it one of the largest buildings in what was then known as Iroquois County. After dedication, the chapel become known as St. Anne, from which the village and township derived their names.

The port of entry from Canada for the early settlers of St. Anne was Chicago, to which place they come by way of the Great Lakes. From Chicago they proceeded south over trails or traces, usually the Vincennes Trail, though some come through Bourbonnais by way of Blue Island over the Portage Trail. These trails or traces in the Kankakee Valley, in most cases, were paths made by the deer and the buffalo in their search for better feeding grounds or to water. The Indians used these paths and later the white man, both profiting by the instinct of the wild animals.

JOHN B. LAMOINE, FIRST POSTMASTER

The settlement at St. Anne grew rapidly and in 1854, the government consented to establish a post office. Accordingly, on July 8, of that year, John B. LaMoine was instructed to conduct an office for the sending and receiving of mail." He was the first postmaster. The mail was carried on horseback to and from Kankakee. For many years, the front room of a residence on what is now Dixie Highway, not far from Station Street, was the post office.

St. Anne Township has been included in the following counties in Illinois: Randolph, Gallatin, Edwards, Crawford, Clark, Edgar, Vermilion, Iroquois and Kankakee. The early settlers went to Danville, Vermilion County, to pay their taxes, traveling over the Vincennes Trail, through Bunkum, (now the village of Iroquois), often making the journey by oxcart. Later when St. Anne was in Iroquois County, the taxpayers went to Middleport, (now Watseka), by way of Hubbard Trail.

In 1853, the state legislature authorized the formation of Kankakee County. One of the first acts of the board of supervisors was to divide the county into townships. The eastern half of what is now St. Anne Township was part of Momence township and the remainder a part of Aroma township. This situation remained until the township of St. Anne was organized in 1857, which included the thirty-five sections in the southern part of what is now Pembroke township. Twenty years later, Pembroke township was organized and was given these thirty-five sections.

HOME WAS SOMETHING THEN

The home conditions of the early settlers of St. Anne Township in 1854. The log cabins were neatly kept, some with white-washed walls and others papered with newspapers. On the walls here and there, were a few pictures brought from Canada. In a little box were kept a few "tin types" of the folks back home.

Nearly all the furniture was hand made to fit the spaces in the rooms. The long dining table had a bench on each side for the children and a chair at each end for the parents. This table was also mother's kitchen table. If a baby was in the family, there was the rocking cradle in the corner. This might have been a borrowed cradle, for cradles were loaned out to families in need. Light in the cabins was admitted through greased or oiled paper, until gloss could be obtained. A few homes had a series of pegs driven into the wall to serve as means of getting into the attic. Others had a rude ladder serving as a stairway. Still others had an outside ladder reaching the attic, or upstairs. The older children slept in the attic. What of the cold winter nights! Br-r-r.

Some baking was done in built-up ovens in the house and some was done in ovens outside. This was not new for this manner of baking prevailed in Quebec. A batch of ten to fifteen loaves of bread baked at one time. The "habitant" ate fresh meat occasionally, but he had to be content with a lot of salt pork (lard salet). You ask about fruit? Well, in season, they picked wild plums, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, huckleberries, etc., which were preserved by canning. You should have seen the array and variety of containers used in canning.

Much of the clothing for the family was home spun. As the older outgrew their garments, these were passed on to the younger ones.

YESTERDAY' S CITIZENS

The increasing flood of immigration to St. Anne by the end of 1852, posed a serious problem. After careful study and exploration, new mission centers were established at St. Mary (now Beaverville) and l'Erable, thereby alleviating the "growing pains" of a community developing too fast for its own safety and progress.

Some family names registered at this time we re : Bechard, Lemoine, Allaire, Allard, Mailloux, Boudreau, Dorien, Varnier, Belanger, Betourne, Gagnier, Seneshall, Grisi, Bouchard, Sprimont, St. Pierre, Cheffer, Beaupre, Chartier, Mercier, Morin, Perreault, Rassicot, Sirois, Brouillette, Faucher, Fortier, Martin, Manny, Dellibac, Paradis, Duby, Hubert, Soucie, Bertrand and scores of others. From these families have come some of St. Anne's outstanding citizens - priests, preachers, political officials, teachers, military officers, etc.

From 1852 to 1859, was the period of religious disagreement prevailing in the colony. It is sufficient to say that Father Chiniquy was dismissed from the Catholic Church in 1856 and with him went a considerable number of the parishioners to establish a new church.

KANKAKEE COUNTY

It was in the fall of 1679, that Cavalier De LaSalle set sail with thirty men down Niagara Falls for Lake Michigan. They landed at Green Bay, loaded the Griffin with furs bought from the Indians and sent the ship back to Canada. LaSalle and the men who were not sailors, proceeded southward past what is now Chicago and on along the southern shore of the lake, to the mouth of the St. Joseph river at St. Joseph, Michigan. After resting a while they proceeded up the river to the place near where South Bend, Indiana, now stands. They had heard of the portage from the headwaters of the St. Joseph river to the lake of Kankakee, a distance of about two miles. They made the portage on frozen ground to the newly discovered river.

Lake Kankakee was nothing more than swampy ground, too soft for any man or beast to cross unless frozen over.

LaSalle and his men carried their canoes and supplies to the Kankakee river, where they made ready for their journey down the river. In the band of voyageurs were those intrepid leaders, Father Hennepin and Henri Tonti. Down the river sailed the canoes, stopping here and there so the men could enjoy its beauty and to hunt and fish. It was in January 1680, when LaSalle reached the Illinois River, where he built a fort.

The name Kankakee seems to be a corruption of an Indian word meaning "wolf", after one of the early tribes occupying the valley. The following is a list of names for the river and the authorities I have been able to gather:

St. Cosme, The-a-li-ke,
Father Mares, 1712, Han-ki-ki,
Charlevoix, The-a-ki-ki,
Mahnigan Indians, Ki-ak-ik-i,
French Pronunciación, Quin-que-que,
Potawatomie Indian, Ti-yar-acke,
Later corrupted to Kan-an-ke-a-kee
and still later to Kan-ka-kee

From the year that LaSalle discovered the Kankakee river until the beginning of the nineteenth century (1800), the only white people visiting the valley were hunters, trappers and traders with the Indians. The Algonquin Indians were very hospitable and permitted these white men to go about much as they please.

By the treaty of Camp Tippecanoe, concluded October 20, 1832, the Kankakee valley territory was open for public entry, except for reservations made to certain Indians and others of Indian descent.

Before the treaty of Tippecanoe, there were white fur traders in the Kankakee Valley. Two of these, Noel LaVasseur and Gurdon S. Hubbard, operated trading posts for Astor Fur Co. of New York. It was near Rock

Creek that the last great Indian Council was held in 1830. At this meeting, the Indians finally ceded their lands to the Government, LeVasseur having been appointed agent to superintend the removal of the Indians to their new reservations near Council Bluffs, Iowa, in 1836. The removal accomplished; settlers began to pour into the new land of promise.

For several years LeVasseur and Hubbard were neighbors near Bourbonnais and relations between the two families become more firmly united when Hubbard's oldest son married one of the LeVasseur girls. There come in rapid succession, the first settlers of Aroma, Momence and Yellow head, then St. Anne, Manteno, St. George and Rockville. Later the newcomers located in the west ern half of the county. It is impossible to list the names of the many who came because of the lack of space, but they were all of good, substantial stock, coming from the New England states and from Canada. Every settlement grew in population and by 1851, efforts were made to organize a new county.

The state legislature authorized an election to be held April 5, 1853. The vote favored the new county and the commissioners proceeded at once to complete the organization.

The new county was composed of territory originally in Iroquois and Will Counties.

On the second Monday in May 1853, a special election for county officers was held, full complement of officials being elected.

June 21, 1853, an election to locate a county seat was held, the village of Momence and Kankakee Depot being rivals for the honor. The result of the election was very close, Kankakee Depot being declared winner.

FAMINE OF 1858-1859

The spring of 1858 saw every farmer busy putting in his seeds. Occasional rains made the fields fairly bloom with the prospects of an abundant crop, but nature for some reason not understandable, acted in a freakish and prankish way, with two terrible frosts coming in the month of August cutting short, yes, very short, the grain crops. There was nothing to do about it but to conserve what grain they had and to save seed for the following year. For lack of feed many of the hogs and cattle had to be disposed of, causing a shortage of meat for the next year.

The next year, 1859, proved more disastrous than the preceding year., In the spring the crops were planted and things looked well, but that never-to-be-forgotten deluge in the early summer, turned the growing fields into desolation. There were no drainage systems to take care of flood waters, resulting in no crops to be harvested.

In order not to perish, the people were forced to mortgage their lands and homes and even their cattle and horses, borrowing money from land sharks, who collected as much as 20 and 30 percent interest. When a loan for \$100 was made, the borrower was given \$80, the lender collected his interest at once.

During the famine, there were many families who had but two and even one meal a day. Because of lack of food, many took sick and some died in their weakened condition. The news of the food shortage, became news throughout the eastern states and the good people of that region began to send relief-boxes of clothing, some food, but most of it in cash. Money was received from as far away as Prince Edward Island, Canada, from Montreal, from Boston, New York, from Philadelphia and from many smaller places. Most of the relief came from Philadelphia. Some help come from England, Scotland and Germany.

By the time 1860 came around, mortgages amounting to \$56,000 had been paid.

There were distributed among the people 200 barrels of flour, 200 bushels of potatoes and thousands of pounds of meat. Besides that, 150 large boxes of good clothing had been distributed.

In 1860, crop proved bountiful and everybody was once again enjoying normal living. A thanksgiving mass meeting was held and letters of gratitude were sent to the colony's benefactors in the East and in Europe.

C. & E. I. RAILROAD

The Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad had its inception in the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad, which was organized late in 1864 and chartered February 16, 1865. The main line between Dolton and Danville was put in operation November 1, 1872, with much fanfare along the line as the first train went from station to station.

The original right-of-way through St. Anne Township was surveyed and to pass some 160 rods east of the present location. Through the efforts of some of the enterprising citizens of the town, the company was persuaded to change its survey on the promise of a bond issue against the township. The bonds were issued and a station was established at a point directly east and north of Station Street crossing.

The railroad was in operation five years when it was sold under foreclosure February 7, 1877. A new company was organized and chartered February 12, 1877, as the Chicago and Nashville took over the assets and continued in business until September 1, 1877, when under a new charter, it was named Chicago and Eastern Illinois, its present name.

The company has operating agreements with the Chicago and Western Indiana from Dalton to Dearborn station in Chicago. This arrangement has existed since the construction of the C. & E. I. For a short time, St. Anne was a division point, with a small roundhouse, to accommodate terminal facilities of the Big Four, when the latter road planned to go into Chicago over the C. & E. I. The elevation for the roundhouse was completed, but never used because the Big Four decided to extend its line to Kankakee and

go into Chicago over the Illinois Central. You can still see the roundhouse elevation about 500 feet north of the railroad crossing.

BIG FOUR RAILROAD

What we know as the Big Four Railroad was originally the Cincinnati, Lafayette and Chicago company, chartered in May 1870. Construction of the road extended through 1871-72 and began operations late in 1872. The original plan was to get into Chicago over the Chicago and Eastern Illinois road, but this was changed, when the line extended to Kankakee and service was secured of the Illinois Central to get to the big city on the lake. This arrangement still continues.

The first depot was built on Station Street just west of the tracks. About 1892, the stations of both roads were torn down and the offices were moved into the union de pot, as we see it today.

Early in the life of the railroad the name was changed to Cincinnati, Indianapolis and St. Louis and still later to Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, its present name and now operated as a division of the New York Central Lines. Before the latter company took over, all passenger coaches were painted a rich golden yellow color, making the trains very distinctive in appearance.

Anyone would have enjoyed being present when the Big Four company built its crossing over the C. & E. I. What an event! A crew of men forcibly laid the "frogs" on a Sunday when the other company was off guard. A few minutes and the job was completed. To protect the men while they worked were two armed guards standing by, one on each side of the crossing, each with a shotgun. The two guards were Frank Coyer and George Contois. "Stealing" a crossing was very common in Illinois in the early days.

RAILROAD BOND ISSUE

When the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad was built in 1865 to 1872, the officials of the township of St. Anne pledged a bond issue of \$30,000 if the company would build its road some 160 rods closer to town than was originally surveyed. The bonds were authorized at an election in 1869 and accepted by the company. Some of the losers who took part in the election, entered suit in court at Kankakee, claiming that the election was illegal and that some of the backers of the proposition had benefited financially. The bonds, in the meantime, were issued, but impounded by the court and placed in custody of the Circuit Clerk, Letourneau. The matter dragged in court until 1876, at which time the final hearing was to be held.

Possession of the bonds meant everything in the suit. How could the town officers get hold of them. Joseph Guertin, Sr., was supervisor and Lucien Paradis was clerk. They and a group of taxpayers formed a committee and they sent constable Frank Coyer to Kankakee to see what could be done. Here is what happened. While the circuit clerk displayed the bonds, Coyer seized them and hurried back to St. Anne with them. He gave them to the committee and they in turn surrendered them to the town board. Someone made a motion that the bonds be thrown into the stove. This was done by Town Clerk Paradis and the bonds were no more. Later in the day, a United States Marshal, who was in Kankakee awaiting the trial, was informed of what had happened at the courthouse, hurried to St. Anne to recover the bonds, but too late. Some arrests were made and Supervisor Guertin went on a vacation to Canada. The whole matter had a lot of publicity in the Chicago papers.

A Watseka attorney took the case then and kept the suit against the town on file, trying to collect the \$30,000 without the bonds. Finally in 1888, when Moses Chartier was supervisor, the lost hearing was held and the court decided that no collection of money could be enforced without bonds. So that was the end of the case.

NEWSPAPERS IN ST. ANNE

The first newspaper published in St. Anne was the Weekly Blade, founded in 1884 and edited by M. DeJoenette. Some of its items were published in

French. It was established as independent in politics, but it became a worm supporter of the Democratic (Cleveland) side and in so doing, in a community so largely Republican, brought on its doom. That is just what happened

EPISODE

John Bouchard was born on January 23, 1879, in a log house on Dixie Highway, near the Big-4 crossing, of Acodian ancestry. His father was Joseph Bouchard; his mother Salina Coyer. He attended a country school and village school, graduated from high school in 1896.

He learned the printer's trade from "devil", to editor's chair.

Mr. Bouchard became a schoolteacher in 1897, then progressed in educational profession from country schoolteacher to County Superintendent of Schools. He retired in 1935.

At the present time, he is managing editor of the St. Anne Record.

In early life, John lost his mother. At her death, he was taken in by Godfrey Allain family. He has one daughter, Mrs. Wilma Tierney, of Kankakee.

He began 25 years ago to write the history of St. Anne.

The Publication Committee is deeply indebted to John Bouchard for the contribution of the entire story of St. Anne. We consider his story of a literary contribution to the history of St. Anne.

The Blade was succeeded by the Register, which enjoyed a brief existence, under the management of Edward Dellibac. It was succeeded by the Enterprise, published under Frank Martin until 1890, when he disposed of it to Thomas Johnson, who changed the name to the St. Anne Record. In a few years he sold the paper to William Kaylor, who in turn disposed of it to Salem Ely in 1895.

Mr. Ely continued publishing the Record until 1903, when he sold the paper to J. O. Bentall, who after publishing it for two years, sold it to his brother E. G. Bentall. In January 1906, Thos. W. Mayo purchased the Record from Bentall.

It was in 1905, that Salem Ely re-entered the newspaper field in St. Anne when he founded the St. Anne Tribune. He secured the services of John Bouchard as printer and plant manager. When Mr. Mayo bought the Record in 1906, it was clear that the town could not properly support two papers, so the two were consolidated, Mr. Mayo buying the Tribune. Mr. Mayo continued to publish the Record until it was acquired by C. A. Frazer just before the beginning of World War II. The Record took on new life and was rapidly coming out of the doldrums of the depression of 1932-42 when Frazer was called into military service, he being a reserve officer. Unable to find anyone who could continue publishing the Record, he decided to suspend publication until his return. He came back in 1945. A year later he sold the paper to Franklyn and Edward Campbell, who continued publication until February 1947.

On August 1, 1948, the Campbells disposed of the Record to Harry L. Topping of Kankakee, state representative, who became publisher, retaining the services of H. C. Christensen and John Bouchard as managers.

ST. ANNE TOWNSHIP

Prior to 1853, when Kankakee County was organized, the territory of which St. Anne is a part, was included in one of several counties, namely, Randolph County, when Illinois was organized, then Collation, Edwards, Crawford, Clark, Edgar, Vermilion and Iroquois. Middleport, (Watseka) was the county seat when the first settlers came to St. Anne.

It was in 1857 that the township of St. Anne was organized. Its confines are described as being a strip extending five miles north of the county line and 13 miles west of the state line – 65 sections of land. Twenty years later when Pembroke Township was organized, the new township was given 35 sections to the east. No changes in boundaries have occurred since then.

The first officers of the township were John B. Lemoine, supervisor and justice of the peace; L. H. Kibbons, town clerk and justice of the peace; Ira Lapham, assessor; Achille Chiniquy, collector; Camille Betourne and W. C. Sutton, constables; Ira Lapham, Camille Betourne and W. C. Sutton, commissioners of highways.

The men who served as supervisors of the town since its organization are: John B. Lemoine, 1857-59; Achille Chiniquy, 1860; John B. Lemoine, 1861; L. DeMars, 1865-67; Leon Mailloux, 1868; George Searles, 1869-72; Leon Mailloux, 1873-74; Joseph Guertin, 1875; George Searles, 1876-79; Michael Hughes, 1880-82; Joseph Pallissard, 1882-85; Moses Chartier, 1886-90; John Ferns, 1890-93; D. T. Allard, 1893-99; A. C. Schriepe, 1899-1901; A. Sutton, 1901-07; William Sievert, 1907-13; W. A. Guertin, 1913-19; U. A. Cote, 1919-21; George W. Martin, 1921-25; Edwin Dumais, 1925-39; R. H. Brouillette, 1939 to present time.

WICHERT

Wichert, the flower garden of the state of Illinois! Fifty-eight years ago the territory thereabout was swamp land, many areas with water the year around. This land might have been bought then for \$5 to \$10 per acre. The owners could no longer hold it, so at an auction sale, E. B. Chapmen of Chicago and Frank Hamilton of Momence acquired ownership of some 2,500 acres of this land and proceeded at once to divide it into 10, 20, 30 acre lots. East and west roads were graded at every quarter mile and ditches carrying away the water were dug mid-way between the roads. This system of drainage was later named Clausen Park Drainage District. The promoters set a price of \$50 an acre, accepting any amount as down payment.

The first investors were Cornelius Voss and his brothers-in-law, the Kosters, Hollanders who had lived in Roseland and Pullman or places near there. This was in the spring of 1891. Others who followed were the three Doodermans and G. Noble. They built small houses, temporary homes, building them high on posts so the space below might be used as stables.

That was largely the custom of European Holland, from whence most of these sturdy settlers migrated. Raising vegetables was the principal occupation.

The first ten years in the life of the settlement included such sturdy family names as: Spoolstra, Osenga, Hoekstra, Tallman, Van Tongeren, Slingerland, Bosch, Boog, Koopman, Brass, Dykstra, De Haan, De Groot, Piersma, Nywening, Romein, De Young, Elsenga, Schaafsma, Koppelman, Schultetus, Sikma, Wilkinson, De Mik, Blankenstein.

More and more came and settled. The prospects became brighter. The railroad company built a switch, to accommodate the farmers. It was in 1892 that Henry Wichert's Pickle Works of Chicago established a pickling plant near the switch to which the gardeners brought their cucumbers, pickles, tomatoes and onions. The colony was on the road to success. The next year the pickle company erected more buildings and more settlers came.

At this time, the railroad company established an office, named it Wichert and the next year the government organized a post office and placed S. S. Beaupre in charge as postmaster. Mr. Beaupre who operated a store in Wichert, was also appointed express agent.

In 1894, C. F. Clausen & Sons of Chicago, acquired the business and plant of the Wichert Company. The new company erected a new plant for pickles and tomatoes, entirely. The "pickle" factory is now owned by P. A. Bonvallet's Sons Company, who have rebuilt the plant into an asparagus cannery. The kraut factory has been torn down and the onion house has become a warehouse.

MARTINTON

The story of Martinton township, located south of Papineau township, both of which are very closely related with St. Anne in the early history of the French settlement in the region extending from the Iroquois River to the

Indiana state line and from the Kankakee river to the southern boundary of Martinton township.

In the long ago, before railroads were known, there was an old stage route, the Hubbard Trail, which traversed the township at a point about three miles west of the present village of Martinton. The nearest settlements were Democratic where the trail crossed Beaver Creek in Papineau township and "Old Burg," on the river at the western end of Martinton township. At the latter place the Martin's came to live and began business. It was not until 1871, when the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad (now C&EI) was built, that a post office was established.

At the September meeting of the Board of Supervisors at Watseka, in 1857, the present town of Martinton was set off and named Buchanan, from the then President of the United States, by the petition of the people, the town's name was changed to Martinton, honoring the famous Martin family then residing in the township.

The first settlers in the township are believed to have been those who came to Bean's Grove sometime between 1833 and 1840. Among those settlers were, Mr. Bean, Aaron Rush, Mr. Cottrel, Benjamin King, James Williams, Jones Green, John Merrill, John Schoon and Mr. Bryant.

The nearest school was across the river, to which place the children crossed on the ice or in small boats.

Finally, at Old Burg, in 1856, a small tract of land was laid out and lots were sold. Stearns & Beckett went into the mercantile business. After a few changes of ownership this store was removed to New Martinton when the railroad went through. A Mr. Careau had a blacksmith shop at Old Burg; A. O. Edison had a wagon shop and did carpenter work ; and it was here that Menlo Park perfected so many of his inventions. The earlier settlers came from Indiana, and Ohio and a few years later came the French Canadians from Bourbonnais, St. Anne, St. Mary, Ashkum and Papineau. All lived very harmoniously together.

The village of Martinton was incorporated in 1875. It was named after Martinton township, which was named after the Martin family, who were some of the early settlers in that township. It was laid out when the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad was built on land belonging to Adam Wamba; but following the custom in such cases Wamba had to convey it before a railroad depot could be secured. The company conveyed it to John L. Donovan, who platted the town and through whom title of all lots was received. In a few years, twenty-five houses had been built, the lumber being brought from Chicago.

Victor Pelletier was the first postmaster, having been appointed in February 1875. He held that office a great many years.

Many of the present residents will recall such firms as Frechette & Co., Gamasche Hardware Store, Barna Martin in the harness business and later station agent; P. S. DeWitt hotel; then there were the Lottinviles in their various business ventures.

In the 1840s, settlers were beginning to move in, selecting homesites near Beaver Creek. About 1840, George Roush established the first merchandise store at a point just north of the creek. Here he sold "dry goods" and "wet groceries," for the convenience of the neighbors. The display of "store goods" was nothing much, but articles of prime necessity, as tobacco, molasses, codfish, shirting, powder and lead, Kentucky jeans, knitting needles, nails, cordials, bitters and pills were always in stock. It was a famous place for "the boys" to assemble on Saturdays to try the speed of their horses and to try the effects of the "liquid goods" to be had at the store.

On the Joliet road where it crossed Beaver Creek, Allen Rakestraw kept a tavern. This place was named Democrat by "Long John" Wentworth, of Chicago, representative in congress at that time. Allen Rakestraw's brother William was long postmaster of the Democrat office. William Lowe was appointed postmaster and kept the office some years when he sold the store to Mr. Benjamin. About 1857, Ezra David kept the store and the post office.

Among the early settlers besides those named above were, Henry Jones, Bradford Clark, William P. Clark, Abram Otis, John Switzer.

With the coming of the French Canadians in 1850, life changed considerably. Noel LeVasseur, fur trader and government agent, had much to do with the change in settlement. The original name of the township was Weygandt, but the French settlers wanted the place called Papineau, after the Canadian general who led the patriot army in their fight for freedom from the British in 1837 and 1838.

During the year 1855, occurred the terrible scourge of cholera which swept over this part of the country with fearful fatality. In Papineau township nearly half of the settlers were taken away.

The village of Papineau was incorporated as a village in 1874. Under the first election Fabian Langdoc was president; Thomas Lottinville, A. P. Shipley, Octave LaPlante, Ezra Savoie and John Massy, trustees; C. F. Lottinville, clerk, Joseph Laveaux, treasurer.

When the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad (now C. & E. I.) was built, there was a question about what the town would donate, but since there was no town plat and no organization, nothing was done by the village.

In the fall of 1870, Rice, Lottinville & Co., built a depot for the railroad company north of Beaver Creek and erected a set of scales there and began buying corn and livestock. The next spring, the depot and business was moved to the new townsite.

The first store building erected was put up by Savoie & Barney. They carried a general stock of goods. Charles F. Lottinville, a young man of considerable experience in merchandising, helped in the store. The next store was built by Hubert LePage. He put in a stock of goods, but soon sold to Barney & Co. Thomas Lottinville bought Savoie's interest in the store in 1874 and in 1876, Charles and Henry, his brothers, were taken in as

partners. This partnership proved very successful. They continued in business several years. Charles was postmaster and handled a line of drugs.

The Roman Catholic church which was discontinued a few years ago, was built in 1872 and ministered to by Rev. Rouquier of Beaverville and Rev. Lettelier of St. Anne. The remaining church in Papineau is the Evangelical and Reformed church, Rev. William Koshewa is the present pastor.

BEAVERVILLE

St. Mary, known as Beaverville today, is located partly in old Beaver township and partly in old Papineau township. The village was not incorporated until 1872, but from the time the first settlers came in the spring of 1853, until the village's incorporation, the cluster of homes in the midst of a rich farming community continued to grow as more French Canadians came from Chicago, Bourbonnais and St. Anne.

Some ten acres of land had been deeded to the Bishop for the purpose of building a church on section five in the township, but the land was never used and was deeded back. A building, 40 by 60 feet was built, however, right in St. Mary. Until its completion, services were held in the residence of E. W. Meyers, a mile east of the village. Father Cota was the first priest. The first services in the new church were held in late 1857, or early in 1858.

The parish has enjoyed the ministrations of a long list of notable pastors. The present edifice was erected during the pastorate of Father Marsile, 40 years ago. It is one of the finest structures in eastern Illinois. The present pastor is Father F. X. Hazen.

The name of the village was changed from St. Mary to Beaverville more than fifty years ago when the government changed the name of the post office to avoid confusion in the delivery of mail to St. Mary's in southern Illinois.

The first board was elected in 1872, when H. DeFaut became president; F. X. Frazier, treasurer; and Godfrey Cailouette, J. M. Kinney, Oscar Kinney, with the president and treasurer, constituted the board of trustees.

The first store in the old village was operated by H. DeFaut. In 1867, the post office moved to a place near the church. The first house built in St. Mary was in 1857., by Joseph Cailouette. Some of the early postmasters were Edward Urch, W. H. Godfrey, Paul E. Gros, Levi Matthew and Godfrey Cailouette. About 1860, T. W. Meyers commenced keeping store.

The village was originally platted on land belonging to Charles Arseneau. He was required to deed each alternate lot to the railroad company in order to secure a depot.

Beaverville is the seat of the Holy Family Academy, one of the largest religious institutions in the middle west. It provides elementary education for both boys and girls and high school education for girls.

VILLAGE OF ST. ANNE

St. Anne township was organized in 1857, but the village of St. Anne was not organized until 1872. During the fifteen years intervening between the two events, the rules and ordinances of the county board of supervisors together with what little authority the town board could exercise was the only government the people of the community could enjoy.

The members of the first village council were Moses Chartier, President; C. A. Chiniquy, Lawrence Ashline, George West, Ed Fortin and Louis Goyette, trustees; and N. F. Blain, clerk. The board appointed Lucien Paradis treasurer.

After receiving its charter from the state, the first regular authorized meeting of the board was held November 12, 1872. An organization of the board was perfected, making provision for a peace office, a pound master and a street commissioner. At this same meeting, an ordinance was passed adopting the state dram shop law for regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors. On the 25th of the same month, an ordinance defining in detail the state liquor regulations, was adopted. The license fee was \$100 per year.

In May 1873, J. K. Croswell, a surveyor, was employed by the board to establish grades for the various streets, namely, Station Street, Sheffield Street, Guertin Street, Beaver Street to the corner of Third Avenue, Chicago Avenue, Second Avenue, Lettellier Street, (Sixth Avenue) and Main Street (Dixie Highway). The other streets as we know them today were not included in the survey.

The first street sidewalks were authorized in the summer of 1873. They were to be made of boards in the residential sections and of 2-inch planks in the business district.

Until August 3, 1874, the members of the village board rendered their services free of charge. On that date an ordinance was passed granting each member compensation of \$5.00 for the remainder of the year.

RIGHT FOR EVERY PURPOSE

It was also in 1874 that the old town well was bored and a windmill erected over the well, thus providing water for “man and beast.” The windmill is gone but the pipe is still in the ground under the southwest corner of the Alexander Lumber Company shed on Chicago Avenue.

As early as 1874 or 75, it was apparent that shade trees should be planted along the sides of the streets, so the village board authorized the purchase of 3000 soft maple trees. Just think of it, 3000 trees!

In the 1870s, when approaching the railroad tracks on Station Street from the west, the rails were about two feet higher than the top of the street. The two-story stone building about the middle of the first block on the north side of the street was erected with its floor 24 inches above the level of the street. The sidewalk fronting this building was higher than the walks on either side. Do you remember we went down two steps to reach the other walks? Under the pavement today there are probably two feet of stone, brickbats, more stone, more bats and some rubble, raising the level of the street to the level of the floor of this stone structure. Station Street downtown, used to be a veritable mud hole.

The highest elevation in the village is the little knoll on which the Presbyterian church now stands, 680 feet above sea level and the lowest spot is at the corner of Chicago Avenue and Grant Street, 656 feet above sea level, a difference of 24 feet.

Back of the Presbyterian church there once was a spring which was the head waters for two brooks, one meandering to the southeast, then northeast and southeast again, into Little Beaver Creek, about two miles away. The other brook went northeast across town, passing the railroads just north of the railroad crossing, continuing on to the swamps that once existed a mile or so northeast of town.

The greatest calamity that has befallen St. Anne occurred in 1888, when the largest portion of the business district of the town was burned to the ground. It was late in the night of February 5th that fire was discovered in the Guertin store, on the northwest corner of Chicago Avenue and Station Street. This store building faced east and extended almost to the alley. The alarm was spread, town crier fashion and scores of people gathered to help salvage the merchandise. A bucket brigade was organized but a strong northerly wind which carried the flames across the street, was more than the firemen had expected. There was not much that could be done but to empty the stores of their contents, continue fighting the fire and trust to fate.

The fire consumed one building after another, southward until it reached the alley. Here through the persistent efforts of the fire fighters, aided by the vacant space of the alley, the fire spent itself.

What a sight of devastation! Smoke, ashes, charred embers, fallen walls. The street piled high with merchandise, people moving here and there trying to help. Everybody felt relieved when the fire "petered" out.

Preparations for rebuilding were begun at once, but this time the buildings were to be of stone and brick and there you have them today. As if to remind us of that fateful year, we need only to look above the second-floor front windows in the Schriepe building and there we see "1888" seeming to tell us of the year of the big fire.

Another big fire was when Father Chiniquy's mansion in the west part of town was razed to the ground. This occurred on February 9, 1893, while the occupants were away on a trip. This home was one of the show places in

this part of the state, well appointed, with its lawns and gardens artistically arranged.

In 1897, the people of the village of St. Anne voted on the proposition to own and erect a light and water system, including a pumping plant. The proposition was voted down. But within a year a franchise was granted the St. Anne Light and Water Company, by the Village council, to lay a system of water mains, dig a well and build a pumping station. This building stood on Grant Street, just back of the W. E. Martin store, later the Farmers' State Bank.

The water system was what was known as an air pressure system.

It was on April 18, 1913, that Public Service Company of Northern Illinois stepped into the picture and purchased "lock, stock and barrel", the old company. The new was given a franchise to furnish light and power, but the furnishing of water was reserved by the village board, contracting with the company to furnish water until such time as the village should construct and own a water system. This was accomplished in 1922.

Back in April 1905, on petition of a group of citizens, an election was held on the proposition of constructing a system of sewers. The result was 74 votes for and 107 against.

Until 1914, every home was serviced by an unsightly "out-house", some covered with vines, some hidden by bushes, but most of them standing in the back yard like a sentinel, exposed to all sorts and conditions of weather. In that year, June 12th to be exact, the voters overwhelmingly granted the village board authority to proceed with construction of a water system of sewerage and to issue bonds for financing the project. D. C. Marceau was president at that time.

The contract was let and work begun in the summer of 1914 and by spring the system was in operation. The outlet was in Little Beaver Creek, east of the Big Four bridge, a mile and a half from town. What a boom to the community the project has been. But now we hear some talk about a

sewage disposal plant. Such a plant would help nature make proper sanitary disposition of the sew age before it reached the creek.

For years and years the streets of St. Anne were nothing but dirt-good old Illinois black dirt. Dusty when dry, sticky when damp, impassable when wet. We can still see the team of horses and buggy coming down Station Street, in the mud half-way to the hubs, the horse's feet making a rhythmic "klop, klop, klop" in the slimy mud. That has all changed. We are out of the mud. We are proud to say that every street is hard surfaced; some with gravel, some with black top but most of them with concrete pavement.

An election was held in 1922, giving authority to the village council to issue bonds and pave all the streets extending east and west and including Chicago Avenue. John Bouchard was president of the board then. By 1923, this paving project was completed. Four years later, Guertin Street and Young's Avenue, now a part of Chicago, were paved, thus making a complete system of paved streets. The cost was more than \$200,000.

St. Anne has all the conveniences of the large cities. It offers an excellent supply of water, electric lights and power, natural gas, fire protection, sewage disposal and paved streets. No wonder so many strangers are buying or building homes in our village. With the neighborly and cooperative spirit prevailing among its people, a prosperous growth is predicted for "the best little community" in this part of the state.

The first place of worship was erected in the Spring of 1852, by Father C. Chiniquy, sent by the Bishop of Montreal, Canada, to establish a mission in the Kankakee River country in Illinois. This edifice was dedicated to St. Anne, the grandmother of Jesus. It stood near the southeast corner of Station Street and Sixth Avenue, facing west; fire destroyed it a few years later.

Owing to differences between pastor of the flock and the bishop of Chicago on matters of church doctrine, it was thought best to dismiss Father Chiniquy. This was done in 1856.

Here I want to quote from "A History of Kankakee County" published in 1906. "Thereafter there was no resident priest in St. Anne until 1871 and the faithful were attended to either from Kankakee or St. Mary's in Iroquois County by the following priests: Rev. Fathers Lapointe, Cota, Ducroux, Gautier, Marechal, Boisvert, Kerston and Demars."

Rev. M. Letellier became resident priest in 1871 and through his efforts, the Allain homesite was purchased and in 1872, a massive stone church was built.

The pastors who succeeded Rev. Letellier are : Rev. J. Michaud, C. Goulet, A. Martel, Z. Berard, Eugene Taillon, J. A. Dionne, A. J. Landroche, assisted by Rev. George M. Nelson and Rev. Paul G. Hutton, present pastor.

In 1893, the church was destroyed by fire, but the same year a more beautiful and larger building rose from the ruins. About fifteen years later lightning struck that tall steeple and wrecked it. A beautiful dome belfry, as we see it today, was constructed in its place. The interior decorations of the church are as grand and its altar as beautiful, as may be found in any church outside of Chicago. The church property includes its parsonage, St. Anne's Academy, Community Hall and recreation grounds.

In pious reparation for the unfortunate defection of much of its membership as a result of the early church's troubles, the French-Canadian Catholics of Chicago and Kankakee County made the shrine of "Lo Bonne St. Anne" a rallying point.

Hearing of this, the Archbishop of Quebec in 1889 sent, in a glass case, a portion of the finger bone of Saint Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, with the hope that St. Anne once more would become the center of the Catholic religion in Kankakee valley.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

When, on September 3, 1856, Father Chiniquy was excommunicated from the Catholic church, he made the following declaration to his people: "I

have given up the title and position of priest in the Roman Catholic Church. I am no longer a priest of that church. At a glance, I saw that I was called to guide my people into regions entirely new and unexplored.” Many families in and around St. Anne met with their pastor and organized a new church, calling themselves Christian Catholics. On April 15, 1860, this organization was admitted into the Presbyterian Church of the United States and become a member of the Presbytery of Chicago.

The beginning of the church in St. Anne is different from most churches in that it sprang into existence all at once, as it were and was a strong church from the beginning. Pastor Chiniquy, at the same time, become a leader of the French Presbyterian Church of Kankakee, maintaining this dual pastorate for a few years. He remained pastor of the church in St. Anne until 1896.

Rev. Teodore Monod, a leader in the Presbyterian Church in France, come to St. Anne in 1862 and organized the Second Presbyterian Church. Both churches prospered and in 1891 the two were united under the name of “First Presbyterian Church of St. Anne.” Rev. Placide Boudreau was pastor of the Second Church for nineteen years and of the united church for nine years. He resigned in 1899 to become instructor for the French Presbyterian Church in Canada. After the union of the churches in St. Anne, Rev. Chiniquy devoted most of his time writing books on his life and lecturing on religious subjects, not only in the United States, but also in Great Britain, France, Germany and Australia.

The first place of worship was erected about 1859, at the northwest corner of the present church property. It was a two-story building-church above and school below. The building for the Second Presbyterian Church was erected on a plot west of the Dixie Highway about 200 feet south of Station Street. This edifice was later moved to the northeast corner of the intersection of Beaver Street and Third Avenue. When the churches united both buildings were disposed of and the present structure erected. This was in 1891.

After Rev. Boudreau, there followed as pastors, Revs. L. R. Giroux, P. Beauchamp, M. W. Merrill, L. F. Wenger, I. W. Parrish, Sr., Bertram Betteridge and S. A. Woodruff, Jr., the present pastor.

BAPTIST CHURCH

The Baptist church is the oldest protestant organization in St. Anne. It grew out of the religious chaos which prevailed from 1856 to 1860. Largely through the efforts of Rev. John Higby, pastor of the Baptist church in Momence, the church in St. Anne was organized in 1858 by the Baptist Home Mission Society of the United States. Rev. Louis Auger (pronounced o-zhy), one of Father Chiniquy's staunch supporters in his religious troubles, became the first pastor. The services were entirely in French and were held in private homes and in the public-school house for a time. In 1864, a commodious edifice was erected on the south side of Canada Street, about 60 rods west of the Dixie Highway. Shortly after the railroads were built, this building was moved to the new site on Sheffield Street, largely through the efforts and benevolence of Mr. James Robillard. Mission pastors were in charge until 1882, when Rev. Charles Chevez became resident pastor, who succeeded in building up a strong church organization.

Another outstanding pastor was Rev. George C. Moor, who came in 1891. He tripled the church membership; a parsonage was built and the church building remodeled. Rev. Moor is now Dr. George C. Moor, pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, a pastorate he has held for thirty years.

Rev. H. B. Waterman was the next leader, followed by J. O. Bentall, during whose pastorate the present edifice was completed and dedicated in 1900.

There followed Rev. A. V. Marsh who became a missionary to Africa; Rev. Frank Dunk, who later was Illinois State Baptist missionary; and the Revs. H. O. Rock, W. D. Spinx, A. E. Uowell, G. P. Burdon, R. R. Ray, Fred Tiffany, F. Y. Lower, L. Faber, Frederick J. Nader, the present pastor.

WICHERT REFORMED CHURCH

The first church building for the people of Wichert and vicinity was erected at a spot about a quarter mile south and a quarter mile west of what was then known as Palmer, new Koster. Services were held there from 1894 until 1897, the ministers being students in training at the seminaries. The elders were Cornelius Voss and Mr. Kroezer. The deacons were C. Tallman and John Koster. Some of the student preachers were : W. Wolvius, D. DeGroot, B. DeJonge and Ten Grootenhuis. The first pastor on the field was Rev. Bosch. He was followed by Rev. Anthony Van der Werf, during which pastorate a new building was erected on a site three-quarters of a mile north of Wichert. This was about 1897. A few years later an extension was built to the church to accommodate the rapid growth of the community. This church was known as the Dutch Reformed Church.

There was also another church in the territory known as the Christian Reformed Church. This organization bought the old Burns school house in 1893, moved it north about a mile and remodeling it as a place of worship. There were no regular pastors but the elders had charge of the Sunday services.

The two churches were united about 1897 and the new organization became known as the Wichert Reformed Church. It prospered and soon became one of the strong churches of the county.

Other pastors of the church have been H. Tanis, John Wiebenga, H. M. Patterson, Fred Zandstra, James Vander Heide, Albert Baker, Dr. John Wesselink, William Swets and John Bruggers, who has been in charge since 1944.

The present beautiful brick structure was erected in 1930. The basement is equipped for Sunday School and other activities of the church. A splendid kitchen is a part of the equipment.

GRADE SCHOOL

The first settlers came in 1852 and parents acted as teachers in their homes until 1856, when a two-story building was erected on the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and Station Street. It had two rooms on each floor. The upper rooms were rented for tenement purposes and only one of the lower rooms was occupied for school, the other being used as a playroom for the school children.

The first teacher was Francis Bechard, regarded by all who knew him as a good instructor, strict disciplinarian and a friend to everybody. Mr. Bechard was engaged by the new school board for fifteen months' continued service for which he was paid \$567.67. The teachers who followed Mr. Bechard in this building were : David Fraser, Augusta Lesperance, Olive Lussier, G. D. Gautier, Abigail Foster, Marietta Classenbrook, Miss C. Cozard, S. Chapman, Miss McGee, Miss Fenouille, Miss M. Blanchet, F. Barnes, Felix Charland, Mary L. Stone, Louis Walton, Nicholas Claudel, Josephine Chiniquy, John M. Burton, Placide Boudreau, Clement Blanchet and Felix Migneron (Miron). Most of the lady teachers were assistants to the "principal teachers," for the winter months when the older boys and girls spend a "term or two" in school. ·

The school year was continuous-four terms of three months each and continued so late as 1870.

During the winter of 1868-69, the schoolhouse and its equipment were destroyed by fire, presumably of incendiary origin. School was then held in the First Presbyterian Church, for one year and in the Second Presbyterian Church the following year. In 1871, the school board-Moses Chartier, Gustave Demars and Louis Auger-called an election to purchase a site and erect a new building. The site purchased was located about 200 feet south of the southwest corner of Dixie Highway and Station Street, at a cost of \$100.00. The contractors for the one room building were Senechal and Boilard. In 1877, the vacant room over the creamery located at that time at the north corner of Guertin Street and Chicago Avenue was rented "to relieve the crowded condition of the school." Miss Delia Boilard (Mrs. D. T. Allard) was placed in charge and school continued here for one year.

In 1945, the state legislature passed a law authorizing the consolidation of school districts where practicable. It was recommended by the Kankakee County School Survey Committee that districts numbered 98 (Giasson), 100 (Hanen), 101 (St. Anne), 103 (Pallissard), 117 (Scott), 118 (Case), 120 (Sugar Island), in Kankakee County and 102 (Hub) and 104 (Switzer), in Iroquois County be formed into one unit and the central school be located in St. Anne. Accordingly an election was held in the proposed new territory for the purpose of consolidation. The proposition carried by a large majority.

District No. 101 passed into history early in 1947, when it was included in the new St. Anne Community Consolidated District No. 256, Kankakee and Iroquois Counties.

HIGH SCHOOL

The first high school in St. Anne was authorized by the school board in 1891 and a two-year course was organized by E. O. Rathford, principal of the school at that time. Two years later the first commencement exercises were held for one graduate, Miss Lillian Mason, (Mrs. Edwards)

The high school and the eighth grade occupied the same room upstairs to the north. This two-year high school continued until 1901 when the course was extended to four years, so there were no graduates in 1903. The school was operated as a district high school (district No. 101) until 1920, when the community high school was organized.

Two buildings have been used to house the district high school. The gabled structure erected in 1889 was the first home, and the brick building built in 1905, the second home. This latter building is now occupied by Consolidated School District No. 256.

The list of district high school principals is an interesting one. In chronological order they are:

E. O. Rathford	1891-93	W. Hunt	1893-94
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W. E. Marden	1894-97	P. Skorupinski	1913-14
W. H. Brewster	1897-00	E. L. Kimball	1914-17
L. E. Brown	1900-01	Lewis Ogilvie	1917-19
J. H. Whitten	1901-03	A. E. Grammer	1919-20
Fim Murra	1903-04	L. V. Matheny	1920-25
O. R. Zoll	1904-07	James H. Gray	1925-26
E. Evans	1907-08	L. W. Bush	1926-29
J. J. Ferguson	1908-09	J. B. Johnson	1929-47
O. R. Zoll	1909-13	R. V. Minton	1947-

The voters of the district on February 1, 1929, empowered the board of education to purchase a school site, to issue bonds for \$65,000, and to erect a suitable building. The site cost \$4,750 and the building \$144,400.

ST. ANNE'S ACADEMY

St. Anne Academy was first known as the Sister's School of St. Anne. It was in 1883 when Father Michel Lettellier obtained the consent of Mother General of the Sisters of Notre Dame, Montreal, Canada, to send two sisters to open the school. They were St. Marie du Crucifix, Superior, and Sister St. Valerie. School was begun in the basement of the church, and the sisters lived in a small log house, with sleeping quarters in the small attic of that house.

In June 1884, the contract for a school building was let, and in July, the same year, work began on a four-story structure, to be of frame construction with brick veneer, with basement. Progress was slow, dependent upon the receipt of funds, but success was attained through the persistent efforts of Mother St. Chartie, and later Mother St. Gertule, so that when completed the building contained classrooms, a chapel, living quarters for the Sisters, and dormitories for the boarding students.

On November 6, 1920, fire burned the four-story structure to the ground, a complete loss. School was continued in the parish hall until a new building could be constructed. A building committee was organized from members of the church and through their efforts and those of Father Berard, the

pastor, \$15,000 was soon pledged for the erection of a new building. On May 8, 1921, the corner stone was laid and blessed in the presence of a large assembly of members and friends of the school and church.

In the box in the corner stone is the following manuscript: "At two o'clock in the afternoon of May 8, 1921, in the presence of a large concourse of people, the corner stone of St. Anne Academy (the old academy having been burned on November 6, 1920) was blessed and laid by Right Rev. Msgr. Gerasime Legris of Bourbonnais, Illinois, and the sermon was given by Very Rev. William J. Bergen, of St. Viator College, Bourbonnais, Illinois, His Holiness, Benedict XV, gloriously reigning, and Most Rev. George W. Mundelein governing as the ordinary of the Archdiocese of Chicago, Illinois."

The building as we see it today was completed in September 1921, in time for the opening of school, and five sisters of the Holy Heart of Mary, from Beaverville, took charge.

EASTERN ILLINOIS CLAY CO.

The story of the Eastern Illinois Clay Company is the story of the F. H. Meier family. Early in the year 1904, Mr. Meier purchased an interest in the St. Anne Brick and Tile plant, and moved his family here from Byron, Michigan and took charge of the St. Anne plant. He had grown up in the clay products business, thoroughly understood every process in its manufacture, so new life and prosperity was the result of his management. If anything went wrong about the plant, he set about immediately to make the repairs himself. He knew his business so well that it is said he was anywhere at the right time to take care of the smallest disorder.

In 1915, Mr. Meier sold his interest in the St. Anne Brick & Tile Company to his partner, U. A. Cote, with the intention of locating and building a clay products plant with the most modern equipment, and yet remain close to the Chicago market. He thought of Crete, Illinois, but suitable clay could not be found. Consequently, he came back to St. Anne and purchased the Guertin farm south of town. In a short time one of the most modern plants was erected and ready for operation.

The business was incorporated, and the partnership included Mr. Meier's sons, Albert, Earl, and Louis, and H. C. Walker, his brother-in-law, all having grown up in the business. With this combination of ability the business had to succeed.

Mr. Walker later sold his share of the business to the Meiers, and moved to Elgin, Illinois. Mr. Meier, the father, retired in 1921, and a few years later, the two younger sons, Byron and Arnold, were taken in as partners.

ST. ANNE BRICK & TILE CO.

Early in the history of St. Anne it was discovered that the village stands on a hill made up largely of fine potter's clay, very suitable for making common brick and drain tile. Years passed on, but in 1884, C. Currie, with the assistance of Adam Danforth, erected a plant for making brick. A short

time later machinery for making drain tile was installed. Prosperity smiled on the new venture, and year after year, the output increased. About 1891, the plant was purchased by T. P. Bonfield of Kankakee, who placed his son, Thomas, in charge. After three years under this management the plant was sold to M. Rosenstock, whom so many of the people of St. Anne well remember for the unpaid bills he left behind when the business went bankrupt.

After being idle for several years, the plant was bought by Alfred Beaupre, who operated the plant for three years and sole proprietor. Two years later, he sold a half interest to F. H. Meier, and a little later, the other half to Adlore Mailloux. On March 1, 1906, a stock company was formed and the St. Anne Brick and Tile Company was incorporated. Sixteen stockholders were registered at the time. It was not long, however, before F. H. Meier and U. A. Cote had purchased most of the stock outstanding and assumed full charge of operations.

In 1915, Mr. Meier sold his interest to Mr. Cote, the company was reorganized, the plant expanded, and the business has been quite successful.

The business of the company is controlled by U. A. Cote, president, L. D. Corkins, superintendent, I. W. Parrish, Jr. and Melvin Bovie, assistants, and Edward Raymond, superintendent of operations.

P. A. BONVALLET'S SONS

When in 1868, P. A. Bonvallet, the elder, purchased a tract of land, 160 acres in all, about four miles north east of St. Anne, his friends and neighbors wondered what he would do with timber and blow-sand. His business experience in France, and his splendid education, coupled with a determination to make that sand produce something, resulted in success as we well may observe today.

First, he experimented with an extensive vineyard, and this proved quite successful. He and his four sons, Albert, Paul, Jr., Leon, and Louis,

produced hundreds of tons of grapes for market, and branched into the wine making business. In the meantime, experiments were made with the culture of asparagus, and this project also was successful.

A small sorting plant was erected into the east slope of the big hill, back of the house, and there was born the packing business, extensively known today over the country as P. A. Bonvallet's Sons, Company, Inc. The little plant soon became inadequate to take care of the growing production, so in 1908, a much larger building was built north of the house where the first canning was done.

Business grew, the building was too small, so a much larger one was erected down the hill west of the house.

Some twenty years ago the company began to process tomatoes in late summer. Two crops were processed asparagus in the spring, tomatoes in the fall.

The business is being managed by the third generation of Bonvallets.

ELTRAN

The Eltran Corporation was organized by Kenneth Baker, Gordon Changnon and Vaughn Bernier, in 1946. A charter was granted them by the State of Illinois, May 18, 1946. They moved into the building formerly occupied by the Guertin garage. Title to this building was acquired by the St. Anne Industrial Corporation, a group of local people who financed the purchase and made it possible for the Eltran company to have a permanent home.

At first the company had a hard time to get machinery and raw materials to begin operations, due to war restrictions. By February 1946, all the necessary help had been engaged but it was April before the machinery began to hum. Adjusting of machines and the training of personnel were accomplished in a short time.

For quite a while the company has been making 8-inch, 10 inch and 12-inch loudspeakers for the jobber trade, besides numerous small gadgets for the trade.

ST. ANNE FOUNDRY, INC.

The original site and home of the St. Anne Kerosene Motor Company, the Stephney Spare Motor Wheel Company, the Universal Welding Company and the Mid-West Foundry and Machine Company, is now the home of the St. Anne Foundry Company, Inc.

Charles A. Fisher, owner of the Mid-West concern, closed the plant for the duration of the late war, having been selected by the government as one of the superintendents of the armament plant at Seneca, Illinois, where L.S.T. boats were made. On his return to St. Anne in 1945, he sold the foundry to a group of Chicago men, which reorganized the business and incorporated under the name of St. Anne Foundry, Inc.

Operations were begun late in October 1945 and immediately business began to pick up. More room was needed so an addition and office were built in 1946. They make gray castings for the trade.

The plant is under the management of its owners, Siegel Lee and Clarence Johnson.

BISON BRICK PLANT

(Bison is pronounced Bee-zone)

Down along the west side of the C&EI railroad, a short distance south of Eastern Illinois' Clay Products property is a small pit which marks the site of the first brick factory in St. Anne. Here, during the 1870's Paul Bison, a native of France, began making common brick, largely by hand, that is, soft clay was placed in moulds and then tamped or packed by pounding with a

short post. After the brick was moulded it was placed in the air to dry and then burned in a kiln.

Thousands of such bricks were used in St. Anne and neighboring towns.

IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

Way back in 1905, there was organized in St. Anne by a group of its businessmen, the St. Anne Improvement Co. Its object was to stimulate the growth of the town and bring us some manufacturing plants and give employment to a large number of its citizens. The company acquired ownership of all the acreage between the two railroads south of Guertin Street, for a distance of a quarter mile. The entire area was subdivided and lots sold. Factory sites were reserved. On one of these sites, near the C. & E. I. railroad, the St. Anne Kerosene Motor Company built its factory.

The building was a large and commodious structure, all brick and room enough to accommodate 100 men at work. The manufacturers of the "perfect" kerosene engine for automobiles and trucks was begun in 1906.

This is the story of an industry born of new ideas of combustion, operated with high hopes, but unable to keep itself out of the red side of the ledger. By the close of 1908, the promoters were forced to close the plant because of insufficient market for their product.

Within a short time the plant was sold to the Stephney Spare Motor Wheel Company, an English concern. They manufactured spare auto wheels. These spare wheels were made to snap on the regular wheels when trouble arose. Their slogan was, "On and Gone in Less than a Minute" Inside of three years the plant closed and went the way of its predecessor. New idea, no market and they had to close.

TRI-STATE COMPANY

Back in 1906, December 4th to be exact, ground was broken for a new factory 38x86 foot, one story, to be built of brick. By the following summer, the building was completed and machinery installed. Mr. Henry Wagner was the president of the company and R. C. Glassco, its secretary and manager, both coming from Indiana. The factory was located near the Big Four railroad south of Guertin. Street, in Improvement Company's subdivision and proposed to manufacture steel fence posts, ornamental fencing, fence gates and wire stretchers. They made a good start, but lack of funds forced the concern to cease operations and seek relief in the courts.

MIRROR FACTORY

The building formerly housing the Tri-State company, was purchased by Ed Liebenstein, who began the manufacture of mirrors for wall and furniture. Eventually this business was folded up, whereon Mr. Liebenstein tore down the building and with the brick and lumber erected that large brick residence which still stands on the old factory site.

COB PIPE FACTORY

Have you ever seen any one smoke a clay pipe, or a cob pipe? Fifty years ago these were common sights. These two pipes were very much in demand by the old-time smokers.

About 1890, Moses Chartier built a large building on his lot on Grant Street, just north of the building now occupied by Dr. Meier's office on Station Street. It was of frame construction. In this building Mr. Chartier installed some machines for making cob pipes. Yes, cob pipes. And they were good pipes, too; but the trouble was too many pipes and not enough sales. What an opportunity there was for a good salesman, but like so many concerns without a complete organization, the cob pipe business folded up.

The pipes were made of large corn cobs shipped in from Missouri and were either red, yellow, or white.

CIVIL WAR

St. Anne responded freely to President Lincoln's call for soldiers for the great Civil War, 1861 to 1865. It must be remembered that most of the young men in St. Anne at that time were born in Canada and had become citizens of Illinois by reason of their fathers acquiring citizenship through legal means as provided at that time. They had been reared in the non-aggressive tradition of the true French Canadian. Never-the-less, when danger stalked across the prairies of the Midwest, these young men, a hundred of them, rallied to the defense of their newly acquired country. The lists of recruits included a large number of English-speaking pioneers who had settled in Pembroke township east of St. Anne. Most of the recruits went into the 76 and 147th regiments of Illinois Infantry. Other infantry regiments in which some of our boys enlisted, are the 20th, 42nd and 43rd. Some went into the 4th and 12th and 16th regiments of cavalry.

CIVIL WAR VETERANS

Octave Belisle
Samuel Lottinville
Clement Poradis
Joseph Richord
Comille Sprimont
Samuel Kibbons
Thomas J. Wood
George Otis
William Clark
Capt. Archille
Chiniquy
Moses Bourgeois
Henry Cyr
Phillip Foucer
Thomes Lottinville
Alex Morrow
Misreal Paradis
Moses St. Peter
Peter Cole
Somuel Piatt
Nopoleon Bastien
Joseph
Archambeault
Delos Provencel
John Dube
Tobias Torbert
Louis Cortier
Louis Mercier
Charles Paradis
Narcisse Rassicot
Charles Lafleur
Andrew Striegel
Louis Hanen

Joseph Otis
William P. Clark
Charles A. Chiniquy
August Boisvert
Joseph Duby
Peter Fortier
Peter Lorimer
Edward Manny
J. Perreault
John Honen
Ezra Coash
Armand Pollissard
Antoine Herbin
August Fourchier
John B. Senesac
Thomas Dellibac
Mason Prospere
John Fenouille
Peter Morin
Isadore Perreault
Honore St. Pierre
Jacob Robisho
Barnabas Striegel
Moses Longellier
Henry Vancuren
John McKee
Alonzo Amoit
Andrew Brouillette
Edward Dellibac
Constant Gillette
Gilbert Mortelque
Napeoleon Manny
Joseph Regnier

Joseph Laffleur
Octave Bergeron
Fronde Amoit
August Lottinville
Joseph Latolius
Eusebe Tatro
Joseph Sellibac
August Richard
Joseph Faupier
Euchere Paradis
Etienne Rassicot
John B. Sirois
Tobias Hanen
Andrew Williams
Abraham Otis
Bradford Clark
A. J. Loghry
Edward Boule
Frank Courville
Elroy Fortier
William Long
Edward Martin
Severe Martin
Louis Sego
George B. Miller
Israel Mombleau
Simon Allair
Hubert Paradis
Joseph Lemere
Moses Cager August
Fournier Simon
Allard Samuel Hay

WORLD WAR I VETERANS

Chester Alloin
Ancil Adams
Dale Chongnon
Stephen Johnson
Jesse Moore
John Womba
Maurice Bonvallet
Alphonse Trudeau
Emile Crossaint
Elnard Legris
Med Vodeboncoeur
Herbert Soucie
John Ferns
Lawrence Gereau
John Degroot
Edgar Bonvallet
Tunis DeYoung
Hermon Lawson
Stanley Schriepe
Dr. G. H. Ayling
Joseph Pallissard
Edwin Allain
Lester Bachand
Rudolph Chayer
Wesley Miller Wolter
McKay
Ira Versailles
William Demik

Gerritt Osenga
Ovila Landry
George Leveque
Richard Ritsema
Lester Belanger
Clarence Cheffer
Desire Kerger
Max Cheffer
Jewett Allain
Lawrence Pasel
Clarence Hinkle
Harry Sikma
Jacob Mulder
Elmer Boisvert
Charles Marceau
Albert Martin
John Cain
James Kennedy
Wesley Giasson
Roy Versailles
Richard Voss
Julius Demik
LeRoy Rivard
H. B. Morris
Wesley Dumontelle
Zephire Rivard
Tom Koopmans
Byron Cheffer

Earn McKay
Bart Blankestyn
John Belair
Lionel Pommier
Paul Bonvallet
Steve Denton
Byron Duclos
Robert LaCroix
Jacob Tallman
Arthur DeYoung
Willie Bakker
Robert Osenga
Frank Hughes
Cl yde Langdoc
Floyd Langellier
Armand Bonvallef
Ralph Thompson
Frank Marquis
Roy Thompson
Dr. P. H. Hesse
Mose Marion
Roy Clement
Joseph Romein
Felix Beauchamp
Joseph Lavoie
Stanley Changnon

WORLD WAR II VETERANS HONOR ROLL

George Searle	Russell Olena	Charles Dietrich
Clarence Manny	Charles Kearney	Clarence Frazer
Louis Hanko	Arthur Schaafsma	Lawrence Therien
John Leensvaart	Donald Trudeau	Leonard Fortin
Laverne White	Leo Demers	George Yoder
John Gray	Harold Olena	Ernest O'Neil
Charles Goyette	Frank Rosepapa	Leo Lottinville
James Lane	Allen Fullerton	Albert Bretveld
Lawrence Manny	George Stillwell	John Matthuews
Russell Doris	Vernon Sparenberg	Bernard Dykstra
Eldo Lafond	Alfred Raymond	Cletus Schultetus
Fred Yoder	William Berry, Jr.	Rex Iler
Ruel Lee Castongia	Wallace Beaver	Melvin Slingerland
Clarence Sobieck	Gerald Irps	Clarence Cadwallader
James McMurray	Donald Chase	Lawrence Chadd
Clarence Ferdinand	Frederick Cooper	Stanislaus Lareau
Arthur Fiala	Lyle Thompson	Melvin Darche
William Kerr	John Elsey	Harlin Hiser
J. Luthern Talley	Walter Gray	Elmer Romein
Elden White	Gail Barnlund	Clifford Hebert
George Couch	Everet Merrill	Clarence Haak
Leland Moore	Leland Bonvallet	Orland Boone
Tunis Romein	Louise Mercier	Robert Cadwallader
Franklin Giasson	Albert Denoyer	Wilbur Legg
Benjamin Koenig	Earnest Brownfield	Henry Slowik
John Morgan	Jesse Young, Jr.	Neil Vandermeer
Clarence Anderson	Dellen Langellier	Donald Mayeau
Haven Cross	Clinton Hartley	Hal Kearney
Lawrence Ashline	Alden Vaillancourt	Julia Jones Husefeldt
Donald Darche	Matt Vanderwal	Emmert Yoder
Bill Fischer	William Seng	Warren Hair
Robert Hebert	William Greenlv	Robert Hall
Dick Bretveld	Ernest White	Joseph Landroche, Jr.

Ivan Brown	Ester Sirois	Roger Pallissard
Kenneth Ahrens	Lester Dykstra	Albert Harsha
Gerald Mulder	Jack Garret	Lawrence Cote
Harold Tippie	Vernon Regnier	Adlore Belanger
Victor Conway	Ernest Brown	Lloyd Regnier
Gerald Lowman	Eugene Gladu	Floyd White
Vernon De Vries	Nick Boomsma	George O'Brien
Robert Nickolson	Vernon Ward	Darwin Cooper
Elwood St. Pierre	Theodore Ducharme	Ernest Alvey
Dellos Lafond	Clarence Sprimont, Jr.	Elmer Beaupre
Elwood Henderson	Raymond Kibbons	Martin Duby
John Dixon, Jr.	Charles Cadwallader	Edger Duby
Robert Frost	Arthur Wamba	Glenn Yoder
James Franklin	Purcell Leutloff	Byron Allain
James Bertram	Glenwood White	Fred Cross
Donald Williamson	Warren Meier	Arthur Gladu
Theodore Lafaber	Donald Bonvallet	Virgil De Groot
Joseph Yates	Joseph Lee	Junior Friedman
Atlas Neal	Francis Moran	Herold Goyette
Alton Brouillette	Eugene Leanard	Eugene St. Pierre
Erperly Mercier	William Haak	Elmer Laurant
Mureel White	Howard Brown	Robert Trudeau
John Lumkes	Francis Darche	Lawrence Ducharme
Charles Belanger	Bernie Sikma	Robert Manny
Francis Sparenberg	Howard Tippie	Clayton Curby
Edwin Allain	Virgil Conway	Louis Koenig
Elmer Vollrath	Leo Scott	Oswalk Bieber
Marven Lafond	Kenneth Boudreau	Clara Demik
Leo Hebert	Fred Nix	Donald Meier
Donald Kerr	Francis Caise	George Pallisard
William Yoder	Weldon Bonvallet	Maynard Beaupre
Abel Ducharme	Edgar Gray	Carl Perron
Lloyd White	Robert Brown	Ralph Dykstra
Lambert Vollrath	Adlore Brouillette	Virgil Dumontelle
Alric Caise	Thomas Glass	Dale Irps
Raymond Allain	Harold Williamson	Alton Caise
James Jackson	Raymond Chase	John Paschke
Mclellan Rader	Amos Rock	Orel I Dykstra

Robert Sirois
Orville Olena
Theo. Yager
Walter Stalnecker
William Manny
Thos. Matthuews
Glen Easter
R. W. Abrassart, Jr.
Minor Conway
Wilman Davis
Wm. Garrett
Irving Adams
Eugene Sprimont
Gordon Meier
Lloyd Hoover
Albert Colard
Melvin Cain
Robert Bachand
Eldon Boudreau
Claud Stevens, Jr.
Kenneth Martin, Jr.
Roanald Meier
Lyle Staler
Lloyd Talley
LeRoy Laney
Austin Kremer
Homer Starkey
Bertram Trost
Russell Barwegen
Clara Pallissard
Orville Chase
Roy Penly, Jr.
Neal Tallman
Imogene Pickering
Martin Meier
FronD Bretveld
Russell Wynkoop
Clarence Romein

Albert Henderson
Ronald Pilotte
Verne Olena
Raymond Chayer
Percy Sirois
Lloyd Slingerland
Wilbur Lafond
Chester Ray
Earl Stevenson
Raily Bach
Almond Stahl
Karren Thompson
Henry Medler
Merle Kunde
Jerry Moran
Edward Oosterhoff
Robert Appleburg
Russell Mulder
Guy Dubree
Elwood Sirois
Winiford Tatreau
Joe Pommier
Peter Koopman
Clarence Hurling
Mary M. Merino
Barney Sikma
Everett Collins
Delmar Brown
Richard Coderre
Quentin Pickering
Russell Kassman
Grace Yoder
Byron Meier, Jr.
Raymond Howard
Robert Moran
Robert Dumontelle
Eugene Smith
Wilbur Mangram

George Stalnecker
Francis Clodi
Lane Mercier
Melvin Glenn
Theodore Trost
Gordon Bonvallet
Zephyr Rock
Henry White
Robert Merino
William Gray
Arthur Kassman
Robert Barwegen
Joseph Hebert
Fred Bieber
Phillip Hoekstra
John Nix
Eugene Woodard
Ralph Lafaber
Ethel Miller
Virgil Foster