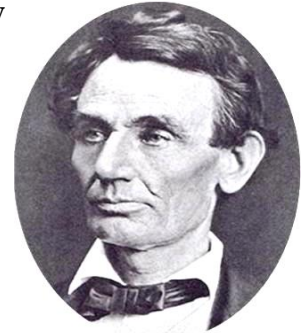


Roots & Branches

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Web Pages: <http://www.logancoil-genhist.org> & <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcghs>

E-mail address logancoil1839@gmail.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LoganCountyIllinois>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@logancoil1839>

Spring 2024: April, May June

Meeting Schedule: All program meetings are at 6:30 pm on the third Monday of each month. The speakers are first on the agenda. We look forward to seeing you. Please call, Vice-President and Program Chairperson, with suggestions for programs at 217-732-3200.

Apr. 15: Gary Dodson: Edwards Trace & The Indians Who Used it

May. 19: Civil War Walk – Lincoln Elementary Students

Jun. 18: TBA

Call for Article Submissions

Members and readers who have a genealogical or historical story related to Logan County to tell can do so through the Roots & Branches. Stories can be submitted in writing or by email. These stories will provide a variety. **Bill Donath**, Editor

Officers for 2024-2025

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Holiday Closings

The Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society research center will be closed for the following holidays: **New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day,**

Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and the day after, **Christmas Eve Day, and Christmas Day.** In the event any of the holidays falls on a Friday, the center will also be closed the following Saturday.

LCGHS Presence on Youtube - Updated.

LCGHS has the following videos on Youtube. The videos are listed in the order in which they were posted. Youtube seems to present them in random order. Sometimes the sequence is important. Some videos are informative, some are instructional, and some are just fun. If you are reading this on a computer, just click on the link. Future R&B's will have a short update on the videos posted since the previous R&B. Click here to go there. <https://www.youtube.com/@logancoil1839>

Civil War Stories # 1

<https://youtu.be/K5x6Nh7spWk>

Civil War Stories # 2

https://youtu.be/jvmEmmY_jfI

Civil War Stories # 3

<https://youtu.be/cXRtnSNwLSc>

Heritage Quilts Feb 2024

<https://youtu.be/fQWgptjO-Ys>

Fire Log 12 – The Ossolien

<https://youtu.be/TsTX-eEp9G8>

Civil War Stories #4 Moving South

<https://youtu.be/y85tOvoTnvI>

Civil War Stories #5 Traitors

<https://youtu.be/YSYT59XWEbw>

Civil War Stories #6 Local Items

<https://youtu.be/456zytQfmbA>

Civil War Stories #7 Reorganization

<https://youtu.be/if4hng4dB00>

Civil War Stories # 8 First Prisoner

<https://youtu.be/dbBU3llkvUA>

Old Limerick

History of Logan County, 1911, Stringer, L. B., p 573.

“A brewery was erected in the south part of town in the later fifties and its environments went by the name of ‘**Limerick**’ for many years. The brewery was burned in 1878.”

Letters From Segt. Sturges

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, April 10, 1862 p2.

Pittsburg Landing,
Tenn. River.
Hardin Co. Tenn.,
March 26th, 1862.

Dear Herald:

“We still remain at this place enjoying a fine season of repose and fine weather and expecting every day to be ordered to move.

“Troops still continue to arrive and those who have been encamped near the landing have nearly all been moved out on the Memphis road, till the encampment now extends for several miles. There is an immense amount of artillery here – nearly all of which was of the very best description. The guns are generally of light caliber but are rifled. Cavalry is also well represented.

“I notice in the Chicago Tribune an extract from a Southern paper urging the Confederate directors of the war to stop acting on the defensive alone and to go on the offensive – to march against the cities of Quackerdelphia,

Porkopolis, etc., and thus call hours the [unreadable] of Duckey all [unreadable] and [unreadable] Henry, Roanoke, Donelson, New Madrid, Springfield, etc., etc., etc. Things may not continue in this style forever. Suppose that [unreadable] has come before our armies in all their [unreadable] we started out in earnest. Is that any reason why we should not be ready to defend our own soil if fortune [unreadable] turn against us and our vast armies driven like chaff before the wind. And though the cities above mentioned, the only ones that have been publicly threatened with destruction dire, it behooved the authorities of other cities and towns to be on the alert. For instance, when **Gen. Halleck** was preparing his scheme for the reduction of **Forts Henry** and **Donelson**, and thus open the way for Federal authority to return its way in Kentucky and Tennessee he sent out a force to threaten Columbus, and thereby cause the rebels to draw their string up from the points he wished to strike first. We, who had to endure that ever to be remembered

march of fourteen days through rain, snow, sleet, and Kentucky mud, had no idea that it was a grand humbug, but time proved the wisdom of the movement. So it may be with the rebels. They openly declare their intention of marching upon Cincinnati and Philadelphia, while their real purpose may be (provided providence doesn't "frown" any more to strike at some place where we do not expect them, taking the cue from Gen. Halleck's late movements.

"Of course, I do not wish to create universal alarm – far from it. I merely give a word of warning, in the calmest manner; but, who knows but what the seat of active service may be transferred to your readers' own door yards. True, I know that if such a dire event should happen, you have men in your midst who would pour out their best blood in the cause of defense; this I know because I heard one man distinctly declare his willingness to do so; "should he ever have a chance and there was no chance to compromise, the matter." And I would hint so gently as not to ruffle in the slightest desire the usual coolness of the happy community they inhabit that portion of the Union that the cities of **Limerick** and **Postville** may be on the list for rebel aggressive movements! Start not gentle reader; I would not disturb your quiet repose if I did not consider it imperatively necessary that you should be on the alert. Supposing that you had no devised plans for fortifications, I have taken my friend **Callon** into council and together, we have fixed upon the following as the best possible plan for defense. In the first place, the rebels will ascend **Salt Creek** up stream till they reach the mouth of the **Rubicon**. Up the **Rubicon** they will then proceed till they arrive opposite **Limerick**, which, standing as it does upon a high

mountain, they will endeavor to carry it by storm. Now, to meet this attack, we would have the whole force of those valiant sons of Liberty who are ever ready to defend their own door yards, but hold on, I am rather too fast.

"In the first place, I would have prepared a vast amount of military stores, munitions of war, etc. Those stores and munitions I would have to consist of lager beer and "sod-corn" for long range. We would have one large battery and two or three smaller ones flanking it. Then, as the attacking party comes up make a show of resistance by displaying pewter mugs and glass tumblers to draw them on. When they commence the attack in good earnest, and before any of our men get "shot in the neck," we will fall back to the covering of the neighboring hazel bushes and allow them to advance. They will immediately commence on the whiskey and lager and in two hours they will be in such a condition that by a well-directed front and flank movement, the whole rebel force can be taken prisoners, and **Limerick** and **Postville** both sound to the Union. It may be possible that matters may take such a turn that neither of us can leave here to take command at **Limerick**, but we know that there are ex-military men enough in your community to manage the affair, if they will only take our plan for operations.

"We are all in good health, with one or two exceptions. The weather is delightful. The roads are improving in condition, and we are all impatient to be doing something. We haven't seen the paymaster yet and have given up looking for him. We are working for glory now. The boys send thanks to their friends who have favored them with stamps and other favors lately.

"Fraternally, **Henry Sturges**"

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, May 31, 1866, p3.

"The Brick Makers, (now in the region of **Limerick**) are on a strike for higher wages. We noticed them on Tuesday in town, in a

solid column, drinking 'sweigglass beer,' and having what is generally called a 'glorious drunk.' We have not yet heard whether they

have gone to work again or not. If they quit work for any length of time, it will be a source of great annoyance to builders, for at the

present time brick are scarce and in great demand.”

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, February 7, 1867, p 3.

“We notice in the Legislative proceedings that a bill has been introduced in the House, incorporating the ‘**Lincoln Horse Railway Company.**’ We have not ascertained who the

incorporators of this company are, or where it is designed that this road shall run to, but we suggest (if it is not already in the bill) that ‘**Limerick**’ be included in the route.”

A Stabbing Affray.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, July 8, 1869, p3.

“On Sunday evening last, that locality known by the classic name of ‘**Limerick,**’ was the scene of a serious stabbing affray. The name of the injured party was **Mat M-----**, the ‘bankman,’ and the person inflicting the injuries was **John F-----**. We are not informed of the cause of the disturbance. The wounds were inflicted with a long-bladed penknife were seven in number and some of them were of a dangerous character. **F-----** was taken in custody by the police and is now

in jail awaiting an examination. **Dr. Leeds** is attending Mat and says that although the wounds were serious, the probability is that he will recover. This custom of carrying knives, and upon the slightest provocation, out with them and letting the sun shine in on a man’s internal arrangements is better fitted for practice in some uncivilized town in the Rocky Mountains than it is here, and the punishment should be severe enough to deter others from adopting it.”

Serious Stabbing Affray.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, July 7, 1870, p 3.

“A serious disturbance occurred on the afternoon of the 4th at the place known as lower **Limerick** below the Brewery, which resulted in the serious stabbing of one of the miners at the Coal Shaft. Whiskey, or Lager, as a matter of course, was at the bottom of the affair. It Appears that a party of miners and others were down at this place having a social time, and three or four assaulted a young man named **A-----**, a half-witted fellow, and beat him unmercifully; in self-defense he pulled a dirk-knife and went at them promiscuously, dealing them cuts, right and left but inflicting

no serious wounds other than the one mentioned. If what we have heard about the affair are facts, he was perfectly justifiable in doing as he did. He was arrested for the offense and is now in the county jail. Those who are acquainted with him, say that this is a poor weak-minded fellow, and irresponsible for any such action, and that he is perfectly harmless when not molested. The wounded man, at last accounts, was in a very critical condition and the opinion of his physician was, that it was one chance in ten if he recovered.”

The Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, January 4, 1872, p3.

“That classic region rejoicing in the euphonious title of **Limerick**, was the scene of a grand ball on New Year’s night, at which a

general free fight ensued. Nobody hurt however.”

A description of the grand ball follows.

Grand Reception of Alexis!

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, January 11, 1872, p2.

Imposing Parade - 00,000 People in Line!!

“At precisely three thirty-nine and a half on Friday last, the magnificent train bearing His Imperial Highness came prancing down the road from Lawndale. It consisted of five elegant Pullman Palace silver-mounted drawing room locomotives, drawn by a luxurious sleeping car of giant power. – (Great is Alexis, but greater than he is Pullman!). The skillful driver plunged his spurs deep into the foaming sides of his fiery steed; rearing high in the air, and with a terrific snort he came to a sudden halt. The Grand Duke had arrived! Cheer after cheer rent the air from the assembled multitude as the majestic form of the ‘Duke’ clothed in suit of gray, was recognized at the rear end of the train, with his powerful hand upon the brake. Over forty acres of people had gathered around the depot, so closely packed as to render it utterly impossible to distinguish crinoline from broadcloth, and before the committee of reception could get within hailing distance, fourteen rosy-cheeked young ladies followed by fourteen elegant Grecian bends made the last copy of Harper’s Weekly containing a life-size picture of His Imperial Highness, formed a circle around him, and having come to see and conquer, begged a kiss from his most Royal lips. The Grand Duke rising in Imperial majesty uttered the following negative in tones of thunder:

“Noa thous and times no! Oja vebe eneat ingoni onsand girlicand smoking adt o bacco.”

“These damsels were all dressed in white in honor of Polar Bear and it was deeply affecting to see their snowy dresses all spotted with rose pink, as the tears ran in little streams down their blushing cheeks. In less than five minutes they cried themselves pale.”

“It was now that the committee of reception made a grand rush for his Imperial

Highness which effort proved successful. Having mounted the Chairman on a baggage truck, they shouted loudly for a clear track, and bore down upon his ‘Imperial Highness,’ with a noise like the roar of many waters. But once in a person’s lifetime are they permitted to witness such an imposing sight as it was to see the Dr., loaded to the muzzle with a speech, pushed forward like a field-piece, ready to go off the moment he was placed in position, and what added to the effect was that he carried with him two plug hats, holding one upon his head with his right hand by his right side, and as he approached the Royal presence he made bow after bow, alternately removing one hat from his head and replacing it with the other in the meantime addressing the Imperial guest in the following neat and characteristic speech.

“Your most Royal Imperial High Princeship - Hosana! Ecce Homo! E pluribus unum, sic transit gloria mundi-sic semper tyrannis, sine die, quantum sufficit, multum in parvo. I am a regular graduate – have got my diploma – if you don’t believe it I can show it to you. This is a great country. How is your aunt? I now tender to you the hospitalities of a dead city. I mean a city named in honor of the illustrious dead. I expected Grant and Greeley, but they write me that they are engaged on a book ‘what I know about receptions.’ Alick, in behalf of this earth, the starry heavens, and the hollow globe within, I tender you the freedom and hospitalities of the city of Lincoln.”

“The Duke’s reply to this speech was short but to the point. ‘All right! My friend, give me your hand, trot out your lions and let me see them.’

“Some discussion here arose as to the course of proceedings. Some proposed a visit to the remaining monuments of the extinct

Illuminators. – Some an excursion through the Rubicon Tunnel and the Coal Shaft. The latter being voted decided bores, the venerable Capt. P. suggested that the whole party procure fishing tackle and proceed to Salt Creek on a Buffalo hunt. This also was objected to on account of danger to the Royal Guest, from the well-known ferocity of the animal at this season.

“It was finally decided to accept the kind invitation of **Hans Breitman** to a grand banquet at **Limerick**.

“A procession was accordingly formed in the following order:

“Music.

“Lincoln Fusileers armed as skirmishers for the occasion, with **Peter O-----**’s patent pocket pistols, loaded, primed and corked.

“Committee

“The Grand Duke of Russia.

“The Grand Duchess of the Fifth Ward.

“The heavy men of Lincon and Vicinity.

“In this connection we regret to state that we missed the majestic forms of **H----**, of Atlanta, and **C---**, of Elkhart. This is said to be due to inadequate transportation.

“His Imperial Highness.

“Civic Societies.

“The Clergy.

“The Duke.

“Lincoln Fire Department with both hands in his pockets.

“H. I. H.

“The People.

“The Grand Duke.

“Nobody.

“Alexis.

“The rear being brought up by the Lincoln Heavy Artillery consisting, of forty-nine kegs of buck beer, of large caliber, suitably mounted.

“With the band playing ‘Lo, the Conquering Hero Comes,’ the procession now advanced to the classic shades of Limerick,

where all partook of a sumptuous banquet, enlivened by music, and the liveliest interchange of sentiment. The American Eagle flapped his wings, soared to the very roof-tree, and screeched his wildest song; while the growl of the Russian Bear furnished an accompaniment truly artistic. The ‘Star Spangle Banner’ was responded to by the Grand Duke singing the ‘Russian Cat Song,’ with such startling effect as to frighten all the rats and mice off the premises. At the close of the banquet, the host addressed the Imperial Guest as follows:

“Mein goot and Great Took! When I been in old country one times, I your old fadder saw – yes – your fader been one very greadt man. Mein Gott, he is geader as swei hoodred demberance men. He like goot peer, don’t it? – When he shall comes here, dell him I say he moost coom recht to dis blace, and not to Milwaukee go. Uncle Peter’s peer is besser as dere peer. Yes sir. – I tinks, ‘here’s to your good health and families.’

“This is a great country, mein friend; but I dinck it is besser when wes don’t bay so much all de times daxes for every tings, don’t it?”

“Alexis rose to reply; but suddenly crossed his Ducal hand tightly upon his Imperial stomach. Evidently something was going wrong within; but after a few preliminary groans, he stammered out the following words in Russia:

“Youdom emo reth anho ner, Ikn owy ourb eerm ust bego od, foritsef feet up oum yint ern Aleco nom yisp owe rfull. Sogo odby andwh ening et home I will tell my pa what a prcious set of fools you have all made of yourselves.’

“The Ducal train having moved down the road, the Imperial party re-embarked and the procession returned home to the tune of ‘Put me in my little bed,’ interspersed with a few strains of the familiar ode ‘Who will care for Aleck now?’”

The location of the original **Limerick Brewery** has not yet been determined. However, clues enough exist to give us an approximate location. The following articles tell of the desire for a quicker access to Lincoln to and from the Illinois Asylum for Feeble Minded Children.

Wider Streets

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, November 04, 1875

“The city council, at its meeting on Monday evening, ordered the opening of Kickapoo street to a point opposite **Limerick** street, and the widening of Limerick and the

lane along the west side of Lincoln Hill. The change will give much better approaches to the grounds of the Institute for the Feeble Minded.”

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, February 17, 1876, p3.

“The difficulty in securing a quorum was on the question of appropriating money for damages for opening Kickapoo and **Limerick** streets (one of the roads to the Asylum grounds). The total damages awarded by the jury was \$1,425.30 divided as follows: **Henry Tierney**, \$1,050.00; **Peter Miller**, \$210.00;

Alois Gaus, \$116.40; **Xavier Gaus**, \$2.70; **Rosena Lump**, \$20.25; **Thomas Galvin**, \$20.25; **Lorenz Gaus**, \$4.70. A resolution was adopted to issue city orders for the payment of the above amounts, thus providing for the opening of Kickapoo street and the widening of **Limerick**.”

The Street Opening Case.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, February 24, 1876, p3.

“In the city council proceedings, as reported in this paper last week, mention was made of the damages awarded property-holders for opening Kickapoo street and widening **Limerick**. The total damages awarded by the jury was \$1,425.30 divided as follows: **Henry Tierney**, \$1,050.00; **Peter Miller**, \$210.00; **Alois Gaus**, \$116.40; **Xavier Gaus**, \$2.70; **Rosena Lump**, \$20.25; **Thomas Galvin**, \$20.25; **Lorenz Gaus**, \$4.70. These damages were awarded in the circuit court. No appeal was taken, and the money has been paid to the circuit clerk on the judgement.

“On Tuesday, however, **Tierney** and **Miller** applied to **Judge Tipton**, of Bloomington, for an injunction to restrain the city from taking further action. Counsel representing the city and Messrs. Tierney and Miller went to Bloomington, but no argument was made, as **Judge Lacey** would prevent him from entertaining the motion for an injunction. It is not yet known what further action will be taken by Tierney and Miller.

“Trustees of the **Feeble-Minded Institution** strongly desire the opening of the street which, with the new street already provided for west of the Chicago & Alton railroad, they believe to be needed to furnish suitable approaches to a State building and grounds. They also complain bitterly of obstructions placed in their way at different times since the beginning of the work by property-holders who, they think, should have shown a more accommodating disposition. They say that when the site was examined by the Commissioners whose duty it was to choose a location for the building, leading men in the city promised that suitable avenues of approach would be made, and that they expected that the promises thus given would be carried out.

“Messrs. Tierney and Miller are supported by a number of citizens who say that the opening of Kickapoo street has long been a favorite project with a few interested property-holders, that the street is not needed, or at least

will not be needed for a year or two yet, and that it involves a serious outlay for a city already burdened with a heavy debt incurred by an extravagant council.

“Between the two extremes of those who have been and still are in favor of opening Kickapoo street, and those who oppose it, is a mere moderate party who are strenuously opposed to a further increase of our already

burdensome taxes, but who believe that good faith with the State requires that we should furnish approaches to the Asylum grounds. Without doubt when the heat and prejudice evoked in the present acrimonious contest shall have subsided this last view will be the one to which nearly everybody will finally come.”

The following cropped section of the map of Lincoln, called the Bird’s Eye View of the City of Lincoln from 1869, I think, shows the area being spoken of in these articles.



Pictured above is an area south of Lincoln. Pictured is the Chicago & Alton RR. The area below the RR is east of the tracks and south of Lincoln. The area above the track is west of the tracks and south of Postville. The ditch passing under the RR is the Rubicon. The street shown west of the RR is the lower end of what we know as Elm Street. It is not named on this map. This map was produced in 1869, several years before the Asylum was constructed. That construction was completed in 1877. The **Limerick Brewery** was constructed in the late 1850’s so it should have been shown here, but it is possible it is beyond the left side of this drawing. **Henry Sturges** said it was on a high mountain, which means it could be one of the buildings west of the railroad and on the left.

Died At The Poor Farm

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Sep. 18, 1895, p3.

“**John Yates**, an inmate of the poor and heart disease. Mr. Yates was apparently in asylum, died yesterday afternoon of dropsy very good health and was able to walk around

without the aid of anyone. Yesterday he seemed to be in his usual health but was found dead in the water closet about 2:30 o'clock. The remains were laid to rest in the potter's

field this morning. The deceased came from Eminence township."

Editor's Note: This is the first burial at the Poor Farm Cemetery I have seen documented.

A Blaze

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Jan. 6, 1881, p5

"**George McDonald** and his son-in-law, **John Vance** have been living in a three-room cottage on Kickapoo street, a couple of squares north of Latham Park. McDonald works for **Mr. Barrett** and Vance is cook at the **Commercial**. On Monday morning last the two men got up early, built a fire in the kitchen and went off to their work. About 6 o'clock, while **Mrs. McDonald** was dressing, she smelled burning pine, and after a hasty survey of the back room, called to **Mrs. Vance** that the kitchen was on fire. The latter, awakened from a sound sleep had losing her head entirely, threw on one or two garments and, without an effort to save the contents of the house, started off barefooted in search of the men. Mrs. McDonald wrapped Mrs. V's

baby in a comforter, put him out in the snow and proceeded to carry out her husband's clothes, some bedding, a sofa a few other articles which were about all that were saved. The baby, as he was being deposited in the snow, remarked 'Burnie, buggy,' thus showing his solicitude for his own means of locomotion. The buggy, it is a pleasure to state, was saved. Meantime the neighbors were slow in coming and the fire, fed by the contents of a lard can and a kerosene can, went through the house in exceedingly short order. Ther was no insurance. The house belonged to **Col. Latham**. A subscription to the amount of \$24.00 was taken up for the two homeless families, and some articles of clothing were also given them."

Light Guard Band

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Jan. 6, 1881, p7.

"Among those who 'called' on New Years Day were the members of the new 'Light Guard Band,' with their instruments. We suppose that, as Lincoln is noted for its temperance proclivities, they took their 'horns' along. This was their first appearance before the public and they treated each open house to

some selections of music and also played a few pieces on the streets. The members are **John D. Webster**, leader, **Will. Evans**, **Will. Braucher**, **Charlie Foster**, **Elmer Webster**, **Arthur Braucher**, **Charlie Feuerbacher**, **Win. Larison**, **Frank Starkey** and **Billie Miller**."

Logan Pioneer Dies

Lincoln Times Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Sep 25, 1913, p7.

Sinnett Rankin Passes Away in Atlanta at 96 Years of Age – Came Here in 1848

"**Sinnett Rankin**, 96 years old, a prominent retired Logan county agriculturalist, died at his home in Atlanta Saturday morning at 4:30 o'clock. His death was due to debilities of his advanced age.

"**Sinnett Rankin** was among the pioneers of Logan county. For more that six decades he has lived in this section, coming from Ohio by covered wagon in 1848.

"Decedent was born in Fayette county, O., Aug. 27, 1817, his parents being **William** and **Elizabeth Rankin**, natives of Kentucky and

Delaware, respectively. Decedent's mother died in 1847, and his father in 1856.

Settled in Postville.

"Sinnott Rankin obtained his education in the schools of Ohio where he spent the first thirty-one years of his life. In 1848 he journeyed to Illinois, making the trip by covered wagon, and arriving in Logan county on Sept. 31, after a seventeen-day trip. He made his home in Postville, now Lincoln, for two years and then purchased land near the town where he improved a farm of 160 acres and later acquired another farm of 320 acres. He continued to reside upon this farm until 1891.

Retired in 1902.

"The following eighteen months Mr. Rankin lived in Lincoln, then bought a farm near Atlanta, where he lived until 1902. In that year he retired from active work and moved to Atlanta. Throughout his enter career in agricultural pursuits he met with gratifying success.

"Mr. Rankin was married twice. On Dec. 15, 1839, he married Miss **Evelyn McBee**, by

whom he had two children, **Nancy Blacker** and Miss **Jana Rankin**, both deceased. Mr. Rankin was married the second time to Miss **Eliza Ary**, who survives him.

"In politics Mr. Rankin was a staunch Democrat and held many positions of public trust. He acted as supervisor for five years, and for forty years served as township treasurer, ever proving a most efficient official. Fraternally he was identified with the Masons for over forty years.

Stories of Frontier.

"Mr. Rankin was familiar with the annals of this county and told many interesting stories of the pioneer times. From the early days down to the present he witnessed a most wonderful transition in conditions. There were no railroads here at the time of his arrival and the district was so sparsely settled that one could go to Springfield without seeing a single house. The lumber he used in construction of his first home here was hauled overland from Pekin. Wild game was at this time abundant."

Store of John A. Lutz Reduced to Ruins by Disastrous Fire

Lincoln Times Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Sept. 25, 1913, p1.

Largest Fire of The Year Runs Big Dry Goods Establishment. Damage is \$45,000

Evening Blaze Combated For Several Hours – Loss of Building and Stock is Complete – Partly Insures.

"What proved to be the most disastrous fire of the year in this city on Tuesday night almost completely destroyed the large dry goods establishment of **John A. Lutz & Co.** The total damage is estimated at \$45,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

"The fire started in the basement just as the clerks were beginning to leave. A few minutes before six o'clock, **Eugene Amberg**, and employee, noticed some smoke issuing from the basement stairway in the rear of the store. He called Mr. **Edward Lutz**, who was in the front part of the building. Mr. Lutz ran to the

stairway, snatching a fire extinguisher on his way. He found flames issuing from underneath the stairway in the basement and started to throw the extinguisher over the fire. However, the suction of the air was so great that the flames at once shot up a stack of dry goods along the stairway and enveloped the rear part of the store in thick smoke.

"Almost like an explosion the draft of air shot the flames along the ceiling and side wall of the main display room, and the young lady employes barely had time to snatch their coats and leave the building. Mr. **Ed. Lutz** shouted

to his father to get his valuable papers and get out of the building.

“Within almost two minutes the store was dense with smoke. Mr. Lutz was hastily gathering the valuable books and papers when **Chief of Police Tyne** reached the scene and assisted Mr. Lutz in getting his valuable papers out before the flames reached the front part of the store.

Firemen Handicapped.

“The firemen responded to the call promptly, but were handicapped because the paving contractors has put reducers on the city hydrants which had not been taken off. These the firemen had to remove before the hose could be connected and by the time the four streams of water were shot into the building the entire structure was already doomed. The fire had rushed up the stairway into the second floor where it was playing havoc with a large stock of draperies, curtains, carpets and linoleums. Most of the damage by the fire was done in the basement and on the second floor while the main display room was practically ruined by the water.

“The stock invoice, in the neighborhood of \$25,000, according to the owners, and most of it was ruined. The insurance carried was in the neighborhood of \$25,000 and it is believed that the insurance will cover the greatest portion of the damage and perhaps all of it. The building was one of the largest retail houses in the city and was property of **J. J. Friend**. The damage to the building is estimated at \$15,000. This, too, was largely covered by insurance.

Had New Fall Stock.

“The **John A. Lutz & Co.** had jut received a large assortment of new fall stock and were preparing the shelves for the fall rush of business. The disaster comes at a time when the store was not only filled with new and valuable goods, but when the heavy trading season was beginning, and the loss to Mr. Lutz will therefore be a heavy one.

“The millinery and cloak annex of the store was fortunately saved from damage, and Mr. Lutz hopes to have this department opened to the public in a few days.

A Veteran in Business.

“The disaster was a terrible shock for Mr. **John A. Lutz**, the head of the concern, who had built up one of the finest retail establishments in Central Illinois by close application to business. Mr. Lutz is the veteran of Lincoln business men for he has been in the retail business in this city for half a century. He began business the year after the civil war, and the business gradually grew and several times required removal to a larger location. At the time of the fire the business occupied two large ground floor rooms, and large display rooms both in the basement and on the second floor. Both of Mr. **Lutz**' sons, **Edward** and **John**, are associated with him in business.

“The owners of the store will make it possible haste in getting the store back in shape for the fall business, and hope to have a complete new line of goods for their patrons by the time the contractors will have repaired the damage to the building.

“The fire drew an immense crowd, and the firemen were frequently hindered in their work. The fire was subdued in about two hours from the time it started. Had the fire begun ten minutes later, when everyone would have been out of the building, the damage would undoubtedly have been immense, as the flames might have reached the stores adjoining. As it was, no damage was sustained by the buildings adjoining, except possibly some slight damage by water.

Upper Floor Badly Burned.

“On Wednesday morning the proprietors were at work early endeavoring to save a little of their stock. But their efforts were not rewarded to any great extent, almost every single article in the main store being a hopeless ruin. The second floor presented the most disastrous appearance the walls being charred to the laths and all the furs, rugs,

curtains, and carpets consumed leaving little heaps of charred goods to tell the tale.

Annex To Be Opened.

“The annex was only injured by smoke and water and the opening between the annex and store was the only thing that saved the block making it possible for the firemen to direct the hose on the stairway where the fire first started.

“The insurance adjusters had not arrived in the city on Wednesday afternoon and no statement can be made as the resuming of business until after they have completed their

work. The store will have to be practically rebuilt on the interior before it can be used, but the annex may be used for store purposes when matters have been re-adjusted.

Obtain New Quarters.

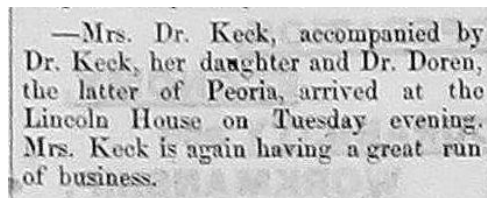
“**Edward Lutz** announced Wednesday afternoon that the ground floor of Edds building on North McLean street had been procured for use the first of October. The salvage will be removed as soon as the insurance adjustment is made and salable stock will be placed on sale. The building has a floor space of 40 by 80 feet.”

Mrs. Dr. Keck.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Feb. 2, 1881, p5.

“**Mrs. Dr. Keck**, of the Iowa Infirmary located at Davenport, Iowa, was in Lincoln four days last week, and notwithstanding it was her first visit – a stranger among strangers – her rooms at the Lincoln House were daily thronged by a health-seeking and suffering humanity. Of those who called upon her, nearly one hundred availed themselves of her free treatment, most of whom placed their cases in her hands and under her charge until she returns again, which will be in about seven weeks. The doctor is a lady of indomitable will and energy, as instanced by her boarding the freight late on Saturday evening and going to Atlanta, where she was met by parties living in the country. During the night she visited three families, returning overland to Lincoln on Sunday morning, without sleep or rest, to

find her rooms, as the day before, full of persons desiring to consult with her – which continued until a late hour. On this visit she was accompanied and assisted by her daughter, **Miss Lottie**, who has charge of the Bloomington office, established about two years ago. From here Mrs. K. went to her Peoria office on Monday morning, before her departure completed arrangements to return again in about seven weeks. – Lincoln Times 26th.”



Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Apr., 28, 1881, p7.

Logan County Agricultural and Mechanical Association

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Feb. 3, 1881, p7.

“The following are the officers of the Logan County Agricultural and Mechanical Association which by a provoking misunderstanding, we did not get in time for last issue. President, **Joseph Ream** of West Lincoln township; vice president, **Joseph Bell** of Oran; secretary, **W. H. Derby** of East Lincoln; treasurer, **H. L. Pierce** of West

Lincoln; directors, **A. Armstrong**, Aetna; **J. T. Foster**, Corwine; **Elias Buckles** and **S. Linn Beidler**, Mt. Pulaski; **F. Gerard**, **A. B. Nicholson**, **Wm. Windle** and **Martin Spitley**, East Lincoln; **M. H. Beaver** and **John Thomas**, West Lincoln; **H. H. Sisson**, Sheridan.”

Teacher's Institute

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Feb. 10, 1881, p2.

"A teachers' institute is to be held at **Walnut Row** Saturday, Feb. 10. All teachers and friends of education are invited to be present. The following subjects will be presented and discussed: School music, **C. W. Campbell**; Libraries and apparatus, **T. G. Seeley**; school morals, **J. S. Wren**; Interest in district, **I. N. Ewing**; School ethics, **A. M. Kelly**; School literature, **R. T. Spencer**; Classification, **John Hilscher**, School

incentives, **J. I. Houtz**; School amusements, **J. S. Cole** and **C. E. Perry**; School government, **Miss L. A. Van Patten**; Primary teaching, **Miss C. B. Dyer**, and **Miss Williams**, Education in the west, **George Moyer**. Night session: Elocutionary exercises by **Miss Rosa Carlock**; query box and citizens sociable. Good music and hospitality of citizens may be expected. J. B."

The Small-Pox Scare

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Nov. 17, 1881, p7.

"The news was spread about town on Monday that there were several cases of small-pox in the **Dunham** and **Propeck** families, about six miles east of Lincoln. Of course, this created more or less apprehension among our citizens and measures were at once set on foot to prevent the spread of the contagion.

"It seems that **Joseph White** came up from Decatur some time ago and went to work at **Monroe Dunham's**. He had been exposed to small-pox, but having been vaccinated, he had only a somewhat severe form of varioloid. The infection was communicated, however, to the people about him, probably by the germs of the disease carried in his clothing, and last week nine persons were attacked by it. These were seven members of **Monroe Dunham's** family, including himself, wife, children and hired men, **Shipman Propeck**, a son of **Hieronimus Propeck**; and **James Swigart**, whose home was at Odin, in Marion county. Swigart went home on Thursday, not knowing what was the matter, and on Sunday he died of the disease, causing a great panic there, the schools being closed and rigid measures adopted to keep the disease in bounds.

"It was not known here until Sunday evening what was the matter with the patients as **Dunham's**. Meanwhile, **Propeck** had gone home, where he now lies very ill. Part of the cases have been of a mild form from the first,

while a part have been 'confluent,' a much more dangerous type.

"Of course, the air has been filled with rumors and many people have been unduly excited and apprehensive, but this has had a good effect in causing a general rush to vaccinated, or re-vaccinate. This is the greatest safeguard against the contagion and should not be neglected by anyone, whether 'afraid' of the disease or not. It is a matter of public welfare and should be attended to at once.

"**Dr. Houser**, who is attending the cases, reported the presence of the disease in the neighborhood to Mayor Harts, nurses were sent out to take care of the afflicted ones and a strict quarantine will be enforced until the danger is past, if happily it spreads no further.

"**Dr. John H. Rauch** came up yesterday from Springfield to look after the matter and issued orders to the supervisors of East Lincoln, Oran and Chester townships to take strict measures to prevent persons from the infected houses going off the premises, and to see that those who are suffering with the disease have all needed attention and supplies.

"No one who has been exposed to the contagion should go where there is any chance of communicating it to others, and anyone who does so is liable to arrest, the supervisors having power to call the constabulary and police to their aid to enforce this provision.

“Isolation is of the utmost importance where one has the disease and should be rigidly maintained. Rooms occupied by small-pox patients should be large, well ventilated, and contain nothing that is not absolutely necessary, carpets, pictures and all sorts of drapery being removed. All discharges from the patient should be immediately burned or buried. No person who leaves the sick room, physician or nurse, should approach anyone until having changed at least the outer clothing and used disinfectants freely. Dogs and cats should not be permitted about the infected house, as they readily carry the germs of the disease in their hair. All clothing or furniture used by a patient should be thoroughly disinfected or burned; and the greatest care should be taken that a patient is not allowed to leave the house or mingle with the public until long after all the crusts have disappeared.

“Full directions for making and using disinfectants, fumigating rooms, etc., will be published next week.

“These particulars are simply given as hints and safeguards to those who live in the infected district or who may have been so unfortunate as to be exposed to the disease.

“Mayor Harts issued a proclamation on Tuesday, setting forth the necessity of care to prevent the introduction of the disease into the city, and M. W. Barrett, chairman of the school board, yesterday sent an order that no pupils be allowed to attend who have not been vaccinated.

“It is reported this morning that **Dr. Perry** was called yesterday to attend a boy of **Dennis Healey**’s, eight miles west of the city. It is said that **George Treacle** and a young man named **Downing**, who have been exposed, have gone into an old storeroom in the fourth ward and tacked up a small-pox sign to await the result. There are no cases in the city.”

Good For Rocky Ford

Lincoln, Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Dec. 1, 1881, p7

“Yesterday, **Edmund Rankin – Daddy Rankin**, as he is affectionately termed by friends – sent an order for seven instruments and proposes to form a brass band among his

own sons and daughters. The Rocky Ford band may be set down, therefore, as one of the coming institutions.”

Struck Coal

Lincoln, Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Dec. 22, 1881, p11

“The men engaged in boring for coal for **Col. Latham** at the north railroad junction struck a vein last Wednesday evening, which is five feet six inches in thickness. It is just 266 feet from the surface to the top of the vein

of coal. The Colonel says that he will probably begin sinking the shaft in a few weeks.”

Editor’s Note: This mine (known as the North Mine) would bring the first **Donath** family and the first **Heinzel** family to Lincoln in the early 1880’s.

FROM AROUND LOGAN COUNTY

These articles, from the Lincoln Herald, (Feb. 3, 1881, p3), are presented as examples of other places to look for family information if you do not see it in the more formal listing of birth, marriages, deaths, or interesting family information. Look in the reports from the locality where the people lived. Be sure to get the date of the report. It is given in the first line of each report.

Mt. Pulaski

"Feb. 1 - **Clark Simpson** and Miss **Mary Tribbett** of Latham were married Wednesday last at this place by, and at the residence of, **Rev. Boetticher.**"

"The oldest child of **Andrew Buoy**, who moved from

here to the west two years ago, died recently."

"**Mrs. Geo. Veale**, who has been ill so long, died at the residence of her father, **L. K. Scroggin**, last Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The remains were buried on Saturday in the Steenbergen cemetery, services being held by **Elder John England**, though no funeral was preached. The bereaved husband wishes to express his sincere thanks to the friends who have shown so many kindnesses to his wife in her illness."

Atlanta

"**Hawes and Wooley** have sold their stock of lumber to **S. H. Fields** and **J. T. Wooley** sold his interest in the remainder of the business to **Mr. Hawes.**, who will continue the sale of coal, salt, lime, etc. We are sorry to see so active a business man as Mr. Wooley retire from the list of Atlanta merchants."

Elkhart

"Feb 1. - **Col. Couch** of Central Texas, was at Mr. **Gillett's** last Wednesday on the hunt for fine stock for his ranch and purchased six bulls to be shipped on day this week. Mr. **J. F. Code**, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, came the same day and left Saturday, having purchased 22 yearling bulls for his Wyoming ranch. **Mr. Anderson**, reporter of the Drover's Journal, was also here Friday and Saturday, taking notes on fine stock."

"Born, on the 27th inst., to **Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Foster**, a daughter. Also, yesterday, to **Mr. and Mrs. Z. T. Taylor**, a Daughter."

"**Captain Bogardus** and sons returned home last Friday from Richmond, Virginia."

Broadwell

"**H. Stagers** moved last week to the **Johnston farm** recently vacated by **S. Love. C. S. Campbell**, teacher at the Corwine school house, gave a spelling school Friday night, which some of our scholars attended."

"Kissing-bees among the young folks are getting to be of so much interest that they have them tri-weekly."

Prairie Creek

"The subject for discussion next Friday night is, :Resolved, That the old bachelors should support the old maids."

Lawndale

"**Rev. Adams** preached the funeral of **Mr. Z. T. Ewing's** child yesterday. A good congregation was out."

Eminence

"**J. H. Hawes'** infant is dangerously sick. **George Clark** and Miss **Lillie Booker** were married on Sunday. **Joseph Richmond** and Miss **Emma Britt** were married on Thursday last. We were expecting the stirring events, but have very few particulars since, by some strange cause, we received no cards. But our hopes are with them."

DONORS

Aleo, Philip
Alexander, Abbie
Aper, Debora
Baker, Arthur
Beasley, Duane
Brandt, Larry
Craig, Marylyn
Davidag, Tami

Donath, Bill
Durdle, John
Freese, Gary
Gosda, Dan
Kline, Barb
LeDoux, Eric
McLean Co. Museum
Osborn, Diane

Richardson, Carol
Saul, Nancy
Schmidt, Helen Ann
Schmidt, Roger
Sheley, Dennis
Slayton, Bridget
Smith, Judith
Werth, Kenneth L

Printing and Binding.

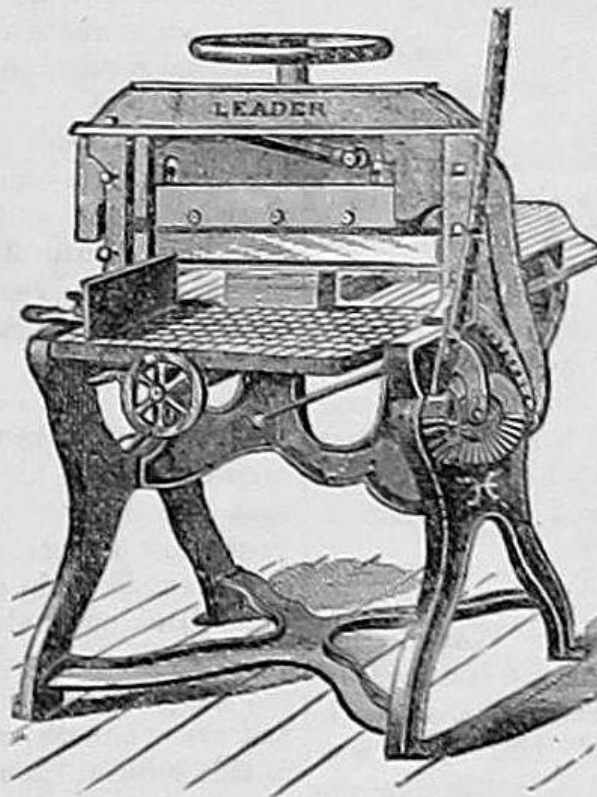
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Office No. 154 Broadway, first floor, Opposite the Lincoln House.

Lincoln Herald, Lincoln, Illinois, Nov. 3, 1881, p6.

The piece of equipment shown here is a paper shear that was used to trim bound pages so they are the same width and length. With steam power heavy arm work and foot treadle work were eliminated.

LCGHS STORE

To order books and CD's, send a letter to LCGHS at 114 N. Chicago St, Lincoln, IL 62656, give the name of each book or CD - quantity and price + S/H for each item. Please include your check for the total amount, along with your name and address.

BOOKS

A Deeper Dive Into the Better Government Council of Logan County, Illinois, Fuller – 2021. \$35+\$5 S/H.

The Spanish Influenza Epidemic in Logan County, Illinois, 1918-1920, Donath – 2020. \$30+\$5 S/H.

The Last Farm Boy, Beaver, 2011

Abraham Lincoln in Logan County, Beaver - \$25 + \$5 S/H

Days Gone By (Our one-room schools) - \$38 + \$5 S/H

Generosity, The Story of Logan County, During the Great War, Donath-2016 - \$30 + \$4 S/H

Be Careful Crossing the Hard Road, Detmers - \$15 + \$3 S/H

Logan Co. Township Maps of one room schools & Cemeteries; (soft cover) shows location of one room schools & cemeteries in Logan County. \$10 + \$3 S/H

This Is My Story, Vol. II; (hard cover) 365 pages
Personal stories from Logan County Veterans who served in any branch of the Military. \$25+\$5 S/H

The Town Abraham Lincoln Warned, Henson-2011- \$15 + \$4 S/H

William Scully & the Scully Estate of Logan Co.,
Beaver - \$15 + S/H

CD'S

All CDs are \$20 + \$2 S/H. *CDs are searchable unless noted.*

Logan County Census 1860- complete
Logan County Census Index 1840, 1850, 1855, 1860, 1870, 1880 Logan County Census Index

Logan County Atlases 1873, 1893, 1910; (not searchable)

Dedication of the Civil War Soldier Statue - 2011

MISCELLANEOUS

Logan County Courthouse 100th Anniversary;
(soft cover) \$10 +\$4 S/H

Lincoln, IL, A Chronology 1953-2003; \$5+\$3 S/H

1917 Prairie Farmers Reliable Directory of Breeders & Farmers in Logan County; 3 ring notebook & protective sleeves \$20+4 S/H or \$15 for soft cover

Heirship records of 1920 – 1924 & newspaper abstracts of 1839 - 1849; (soft cover) not available at Courthouse due to the fire of 1857. 148 pages (Updated due to faded print) \$20+4 S/H

Mason City Centennial Book, \$15 + \$5 S/H

ORNAMENTS – All Ornaments are \$8 each.

1999 Logan Co. Courthouse
2000 Lincoln City Hall
2001 Lincoln Public Library
2002 Abraham Lincoln Mem. Hospital
2004 Lincoln College
2005 Logan Co Courthosue
2006 Earl Hargrove Chapel LCC

2007 The Arcade Building
2008 Logan Co. Courthouse
2009 Logan Co. Courthouse
2010 Lincoln Woman's Club
2013 A. Lincoln's 1858 Speech
2015 Knapp, Chesnut, Becker Building, Middletown, IL

Duplicate Books Available

The following duplicate books are available for purchase from LCG&HS. High school & college yearbooks sell for \$10 each and include:

Lincoln: 1920; 1921; 1922; 1923; 1924; 1925;
1926, 1927; 1928; 1929; 1930; 1931; 1932;
1933; 1934; 1935; 1936; 1937; 1939; 1940;
1941; 1942; 1947; 1948; 1949; 1950; 1951

Hartsburg-Emden: 1956

Elkhart Sesquicentennial: 2005, \$15 + S/H

Lincoln College: 1963; 1972

Mt. Pulaski - 1926, 1927, 1930

Make Tracks to Latham 125th Anniversary

1872-1972 - \$20 + S/H

Mt. Pulaski 100yr 1836-1936 - \$10 + S/H

Twelve Momentous Years in the Other Atlanta, 1853-1865 - \$20 + S/H

Elkhart is Like a Box of Chocolates - \$7 + S/H

Echoes from the Branches - \$7 + S/H

Glimpses of Lincoln, IL. - \$15 + S/H

Lincoln, IL, A Chronology, 1853-2003, \$15 + S/H

Lincoln City Directories: 1934; 1941; 1955;
1962, 1964; 1967; 1971; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1976;
1977, 1978, 1979; 1980; 1981; 1982; 1984; 1985;
1986; 1987; 1988; 1989; 1990; 1991; 1992; 1993;
1994; 1995; 1996; 1997; 1998; 2000; 2005

ATLAS/PLAT BOOKS AVAILABLE

Logan County Illinois: 1979; 1993; 1996; 1997 individual - \$10 each, **2013** - \$35 + \$5 S/H

McLean County Illinois: 1996 - \$10

LOGAN COUNTY PLATES

Emden – 7.5 in: 1871-1971

Emden St. Peter's Lutheran Church: 1879-1979

Abraham Lincoln – 10 in: 1853-1953

Abraham Lincoln -150th Birthday

Abraham Lincoln - Ashtray

Lincoln First Methodist Church-new building

Lincoln Sesquicentennial: 1818-1968

Logan Co. Fair - 50th Anniv.

Mt. Pulaski Methodist Church - 10in

Mt. Pulaski Stahl's Siltenial: 1836-1961

Mt. Pulaski Courthouse Siltenial: 1836-1961

Odd Fellows Home; 1967

Sheers Building

Sheers Courthouse

Sheers Auto Supply

Zion Lutheran Ch - Lincoln

Plates are \$10 each plus \$4 S/H.

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Logan County Genealogical & Historical Society
114 N. Chicago Street, Lincoln IL 62656
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In an effort to cut postage costs, the quarterly newsletter, *Roots and Branches*, will be emailed to members who have their email address on file with the Society. Members not having email will continue to receive their quarterly by mail. **NOTE:** Please remember to update your email address with LCGHS when changes are made to it.

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Indicate the family surname and information that you are researching, limit to 4.

Surnames: _____

Individuals to be researched: _____

If you want our assistance in your research, indicate the Surnames and/or any information you already have that will help in our search (i.e., dates, places of birth, death, etc.). For members, \$15 for initial research is requested. Non-members, please call 217-732-3200 for research fees.

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