

## John D. Gillett, "Cattle King of the World"

JOHN D. GILLETT For many years Elkhart was one of the largest shipping points on the C. & A. railroad, due to the large stock raising farms of John D. Gillett. Mr. Gillett was called the "cattle king" of the world. John D. Gillett was born at Fair Haven, Conn., April 28, 1819. He was a descendant of a family of Huguenots which were driven from France by religious persecution and sought refuge in England and in 1631 emigrated to the United States and settled in Lebanon in what was then the colony of Conn. His father, Eliphaz, was captain of the brig "John" of which he was sole owner and was engaged along West Indies coast wise trade. He was born in 1791 and married Amarilla Sanford^ Five children, two sons and three daughters were born to them. Both his grandfathers were soldiers in the war of the Revo- lution. When John was three his father died and he was reared by his widowed mother and went to Lancasterian school at New Haven. When he was 17 he sailed to Georgia and spent two years in the mercantile business and afterwards returned to New Haven and attended Pearl's Academy six Page 6 John D. Gillett months. In the fall of 1838 he started for Illinois, going by steamboat to St. Louis, by stage to Springfield, and then on foot to Bald Knob where an uncle resided. He immediately began to work on the farm receiving at first \$8 a month. In 1840, after spending two years at Bald Knob, he came to Logan County and improved a farm in Elkhart Township, residing there 28 years. This farm is now operated by Albert Johnson and it lies just north of Cornland. In 1868 he moved to Elkhart Hill. By 1852 he owned some 12,000 acres of land and in that year with R. B. Latham entered about 7,000 acres more. At his death he owned 16,500 acres of land. Congratulations and Best Wishes To the Village of Elkhart, Illinois JOHN MERRITT Elkhart, Illinois Armistice Celebration - Elkhart CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VILLAGE OF ELKHART ON 100th BIRTHDAY ROLAND'S Springfield, Illinois Page 7 LETT, ESQ., EURIART PARK, LOGM, CO U This drawing showing the farm residence of John D. Gillett on Elkhart Hill and also the village of Elkhart on the left was taken from the Logan County Atlas which was published in 1873. John D. Gillett purchased this farm and moved here from near Cornland on September 14, 1869. The old house burned on February 14, 1871 and Gillett then built the present home. Compliments of OL>D GIMDET farm Page 8 He raised some of the finest stock cattle in the United States. He was engaged extensively in shipping fine stock in European markets. He was a Republican in politics but never held any political office. On May 31, 1842 he was married to Miss Le- mira Park's JL Her father, Elisha Parke, settled in Logan County in 1837 and built the first jail in Logan County. Mr. and Mrs. Gillett had eleven children: S. Emma who died young, Anna S., Grace, Eliphaz Parke who died at 4 years, Lemira Nina, May, Kate, Jessie Dean, John Parke, Ada and Charlotte Lancroft. The family were members of the Episcopal Church in Springfield. The old house in Elkhart was destroyed by fire in February, 1871. A new one was built which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Drake. John D. Gillette died at Mackinack^ Island August 27, 1883.

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