

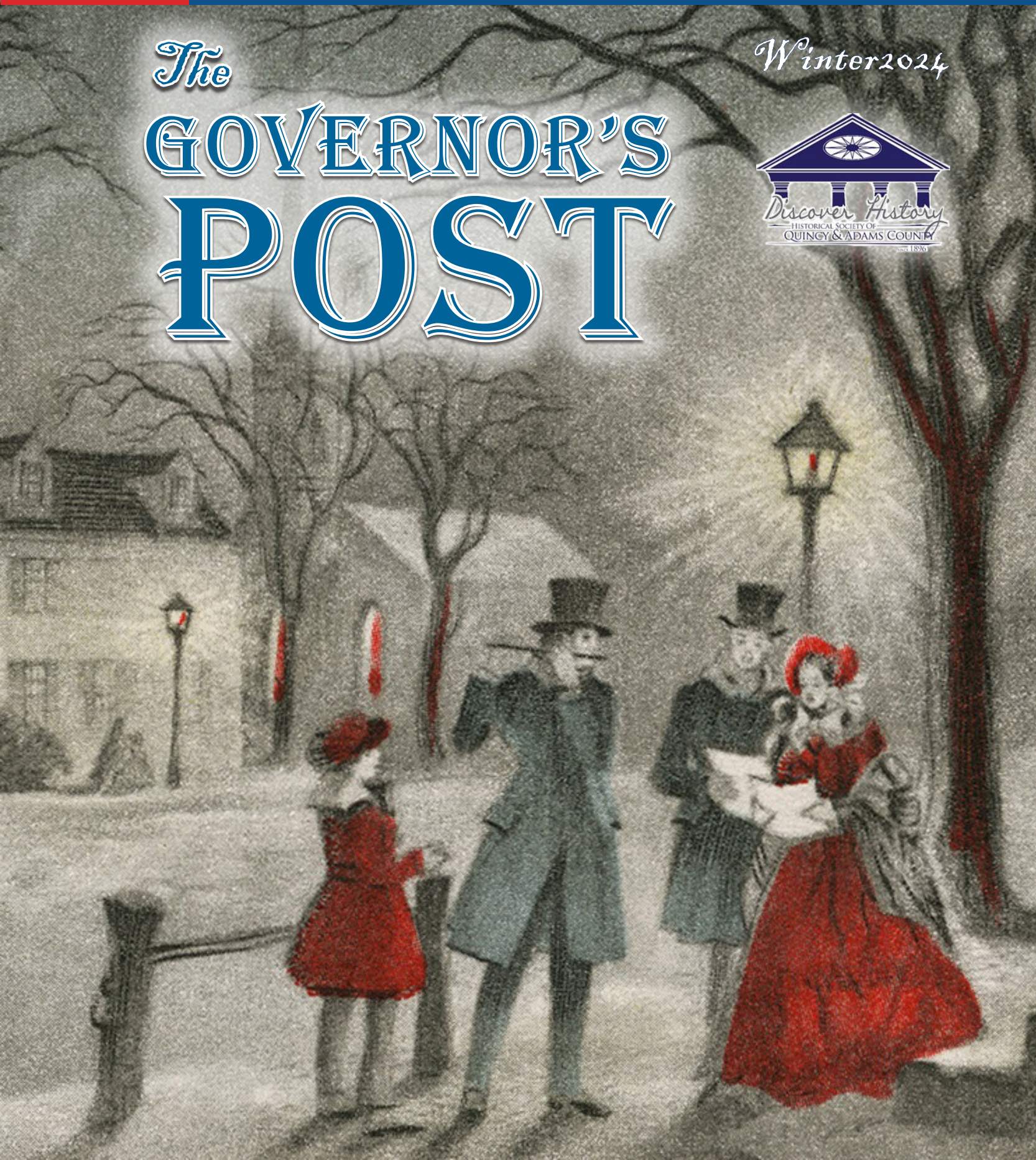
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217-222-1835
12th & State
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

of Quincy and Adams County, Illinois, Est. 1896

The GOVERNOR'S POST

Winter 2024



CONTENTS

4

copy

8

copy

11

copy

20

copy

On the Cover: Caroling was popular for many Victorian middle and upper class families. While the practice of caroling door to door is an ancient English tradition going back centuries, caroling did not gain widespread popularity in the United States until the late 19th century.

GET TO KNOW OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS & OFFICERS

DR. PATRICK HOTLE

Patrick Hotle has lived in Quincy for the last nineteen years. He served as the John Sperry Jr. Endowed Chair of Humanities for thirty years at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Mo., before retiring last year. He taught courses in European and Middle Eastern history. He was also the director of the travel study program. Patrick grew up in Iowa. Before coming to the area he taught in international schools in Nicaragua, Egypt, Belgium and the Netherlands. He has just finished collaborating with Terrell Dempsey on a book on Abolitionism in the Quincy area.



KIM DINKHELLER

Kim Dinkheller has dedicated 24 years to education within Quincy Public Schools District 172 where she has made significant contributions across multiple roles. Beginning as a 9th-grade U.S. History teacher in 2001, Kim spent 14 years fostering a love and appreciation for our nation's history while encouraging her students to explore, inquire and think critically as they learned about the events of our past. Following her time in the classroom, she served as a Dean of Students before transitioning to Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction at Quincy Junior High School. In this role, she played a key role in implementing curriculum improvements and supporting instructional excellence.



Currently, Kim serves as the Director of Teaching and Learning for Quincy Public Schools, where she leads initiatives focused on enhancing instructional practices, empowering educators, and working collaboratively to create opportunities within the district to ensure students are college, career, and life ready upon graduation. Kim holds a BA in History from Quincy University, an M.Ed. from William Woods University, and a certificate of completion and achievement of National Institute of School

Leadership's Executive Development Program through the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE). Kim, her husband Travis, and son Cooper reside in Quincy.

AMY KAISER

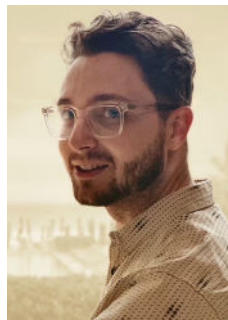
Amy Kaiser started her involvement with the Historic Society of Quincy and Adams County in the early 2000's while working as a prosecutor in central Illinois. She began by giving tours of the John Wood Mansion on the weekends, helping with the Woodland Cemetery and Mansion Christmas tours, and contributing to various presentations on behalf of the Society. She even penned an article for the Herald Whig's "Once Upon a Time in Quincy" column. Eventually she was appointed to the Board of Directors, serving for a time as the Board's Secretary.



Amy is thrilled to have been invited back to the Board at such a dynamic and interesting time for the Society. She is currently the Social Studies and Business Law teacher at Quincy Notre Dame High School. She has been at QND for over a dozen years while still keeping one foot in her original profession, law. When she is not working or helping the Society, she enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, and cheering on her favorite sports teams, the QND Raiders and Missouri Tigers!

DR. J. MATTHEW WARD

J. Matthew Ward, teaches U.S. history at Quincy University. His area of expertise is the U.S. Civil War, but he also teaches courses in U.S. nineteenth century history, U.S. popular culture, and women & gender studies. His book *Garden of Ruins: Occupied Louisiana in the Civil War* was released by LSU Press in May of this year. He was born and raised in Amory, Mississippi. He received his Master's Degree from University of Missouri in 2015 and his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 2021. He and his wife Sarah moved to Quincy in 2021, where they can often be seen walking around town with their poorly behaved dog, Boris.



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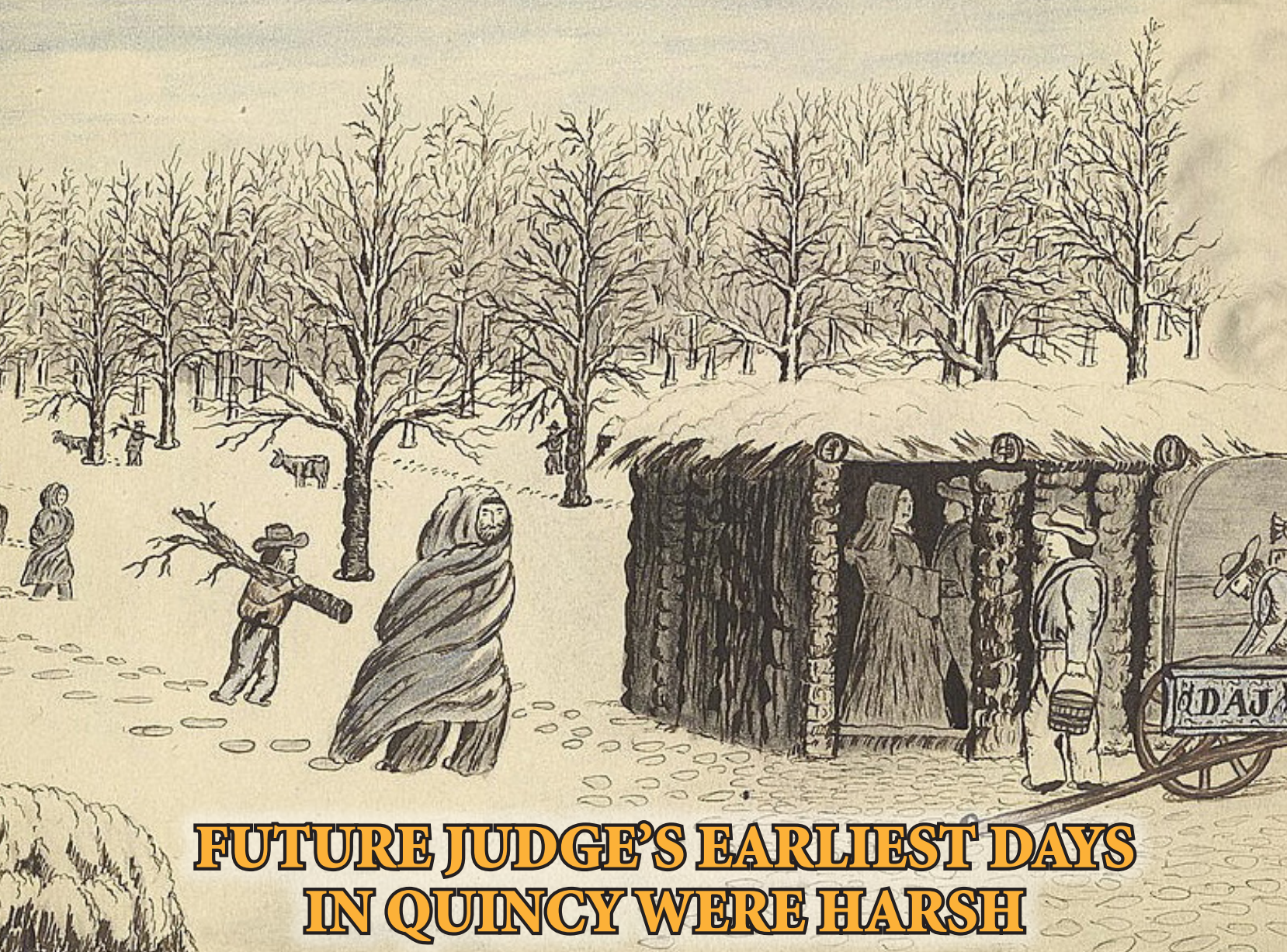
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FUTURE JUDGE'S EARLIEST DAYS IN QUINCY WERE HARSH

Drawing of a winter scene by David Jenks from 1859. (Courtesy of the Library of Congress archive.)

By: Bob Keith

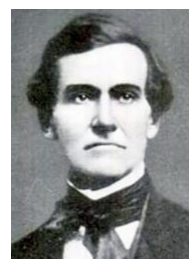
Winter arrived early as a November snow began to fall on the limestone bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River at Quincy.

The year was 1828, and the village's 150 or so residents lived in a couple of dozen mostly log structures. Other than the occasional steamboat stopping at the new river pier on its way from St. Louis to the Galena lead mines, Quincy had few attractions for settlers. Curious strangers brought b-y chimney smoke from the out country occasionally loafed about town, though only long enough to replenish supplies and move on. A tall, lean, auburn-haired rider led his horse to the hitching post in front of Rufus Brown's inn and tavern on the southeast side of today's Fourth and Maine intersection; this arriving stranger intended to stay.

Nine months earlier, James H. Ralston's father presented his soon-to-be 21-year-old son with two options for his future. Since there was no money for formal schooling, he was encouraged to carry on at the family's Bath County, Ky., farm or be free to do something else. Fortuitously, James chose the latter and traveled with his uncle's large family from Kentucky to their new homestead in the Sangamon River valley near Springfield. After helping his uncle and cousins clear land, build a cabin and plant first-year crops, he learned from a Springfield attorney about an opening for a law clerk in the Quincy office of attorney George Logan. Though Logan found the bright and eager home-schooled applicant to be grammatically raw around the edges, he saw potential. James began what would be his lifelong calling, helping his new mentor with his local law practice and Logan's work with circuit court judge

Richard M. Young. Two years later, in October 1830, those gathering at Brown's tavern celebrated J.H. Ralston's admission to the Illinois bar.

No more than a month later snow began to fall in Quincy. James recalled hearing predictions of the severity of the upcoming winter based on the thickness of the woolly worm's coat. By Christmas Eve, the accuracy of that forecast was worth less than the price of that coat. The snow's depth reached over 2 feet and was covered with a layer of ice thick enough to hold a grown man's weight. Pure fear



James H. Ralston traveled with his uncle's large family from Kentucky to Springfield, Illinois, in 1828. Ralston moved to Quincy and became a law clerk for Quincy attorney George Logan.

replaced the “ah shucks” attitude about being able to make it through any Illinois winter. An additional 2 feet accumulated during the first two months of 1831. James watched the upward progress of a snowdrift fast approaching the second-story window of his small room above Asher Anderson’s store. He saw neighbors helping neighbors keep from starving or freezing to death. Anderson and the other town merchants located supplies from wherever they could and meeting whatever price had to be paid to get them. When it was all said and done, new residents and old-timers alike set a revised demarcation of Quincy’s historical events, before and after the big snow.

On April 22, 1832, a courier arrived in Quincy from the state capital in Vandalia. He carried a proclamation from Gov. John Reynolds calling for the organization of a mounted militia. The proclamation confirmed the rumor circulating that the Sauk Indian brave Black Hawk, with an estimated 500 braves and 800 women and children, had crossed the Mississippi from west to east in early April. Black Hawk’s intentions were unclear. However, what was more than clear was he had returned to Illinois in direct violation of an 1830 treaty and against the advice of ruling Sauk tribal members, including Chief Keokuk. Black Hawk was a notoriously clever warrior with no regard for white settlers or their leaders in Vandalia or Washington. There was no doubt his presence was a threat to the peace of the northwestern Illinois frontier.



Black Hawk was a clever warrior with no regard for white settlers or their leaders in Vandalia or Washington. His presence was a threat to the peace of the northwestern Illinois frontier.



State Capitol of Illinois in Vandalia. In April 1832, Illinois Governor John Reynolds issued a proclamation calling for the organization of a mounted militia in order to confront the perceived threat of the Sauk tribe to Illinois.

The able-bodied men in Quincy viewed this call to arms as the opportunity for a real adventure. Never mind that few of them owned a decent weapon or a horse strong and fast enough for a fight to the death with a force of battle-hardened Indians. Even fewer of them had any form of military discipline needed to make sure that orders were followed to the letter in the heat of battle. Four attorneys and likely several more of the 60 to 70 men who filled the Quincy militia roster could be called gentlemen soldiers.



Archibald Williams was a successful attorney and politician in Quincy. Williams, along with William Richardson, Orville Hickman Browning, and James Ralston vowed to be Black Hawk’s “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.”

Three of the four attorneys joined the fray for the thrill of the hunt, oblivious to what the hunt would ask in return. Friends, and later noted attorneys and politicians all, Will Richardson, O.H. Browning, Archie Williams and J.H. Ralston vowed to be Black Hawk’s four horsemen of the apocalypse and bring low the mighty Indian warrior. Good intentions and bravado can be detours on the road to success; James was the only member of

the four who saw the 4-month so-called war to its successful and bloody conclusion.

Before the Black Hawk uprising, James met Jane Alexander and after the tussle, in October 1832, they married. She was the oldest daughter of Col. and Mrs. Samuel Alexander. A surveyor by trade, the colonel had come to Quincy to be the registrar of a new land office formed to handle the booming sales of the nearby military bounty land tracts. The couple postponed the wedding for a few weeks so that James’s brother, Dr. Joseph Neely Ralston, could be the best man at the wedding. Six months earlier J.H. had persuaded his brother to move his practice from northern Kentucky to Quincy. Thus it was that two Ralstons became productive and influential citizens of Quincy.

CANDLELIGHT TOURS

The Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County will once again offer Christmas Candlelight Tours of the Governor John Wood Mansion. Annually, this popular Quincy tradition has allowed visitors to step back in time and enjoy the beautifully decorated Greek Revival home of John Wood, Quincy's founder.

This holiday season Governor and Mrs. John Wood will welcome guests to the Mansion and musical performers will be featured. Complimentary Christmas cookies and hot chocolate will add to the festive nature of the event. This year's musical performers include 12th Street Brass; cellists from Javaux Music School; blue grass inspired group Stoney Roots; local choral group The Eventide Singers; and singer/songwriter Logan Kammerer. The schedule is as follows: 12th Street Brass, December 13; Javaux Music School cellists, December 14; Stoney Roots, December 20; The Eventide Singers, December 21; Logan Kammerer, December 26.

Candlelight Tours will be scheduled between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on five days-December 13, 14, 20, 21, and 26. Tour times are 5:00; 5:20; 5:40; 6:00; 6:20; and 6:40. Tours will begin in the Society's Visitors Center next to the Mansion, and tour guides will be available to take groups to the historic home. The Hal and Kathy Oakley Family are sponsoring the event which is free and open to the public. Reservations are requested and may be made by contacting the HSQAC Office at 217-222-1835 or info@hsqac.org.

MEDAL OF HONOR

What do an obscure Quincyan of modest means named Eugene Patrick Smith and Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz have in common? Among the several possible correct answers is this one: Each served aboard the USS Decatur, a Navy Arleigh-Burke class destroyer (DDG – 731). Smith was awarded the Medal of Honor for actions he took when an explosion and resulting fire engulfed fellow crewmen aboard the ship on 9 September 1915. Nimitz, on the other hand, was court martialed and found guilty of “hazarding” a Navy vessel when he ran the ship aground in 1906. The Nimitz story many readers know involves a very successful career that culminated in Nimitz’s post World War II service as Chief of Naval Operations. Unfortunately, Smith’s name has nearly been lost to the annals of history.

Eugene Patrick Smith was born at 122 South 12th Street in Quincy on 8 August 1871 to Owen A. and Elizabeth Monahan Smith. His father ran a saloon and made horse collars. His mother worked in the

home. The second of six children, Eugene attended school in Quincy but left town after his mother’s death to live with her brother and family in San Francisco, California.

In 1895, Eugene enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to the Asiatic Fleet stationed in Manila, Philippine Islands. When the Spanish American War broke out in 1898, he served on the gunboat USS Petrel (PG2) in Admiral Dewey’s Fleet. Eugene was still in the Navy when World War I ignited much of Europe. By 1915, he was serving aboard the USS Decatur (DD5) which was anchored off the Province of Cavite, Philippines, when, on 9 September, a terrible explosion engulfed a major portion of the ship. The accompanying fires caused many sailors to become trapped and without air. Chief Watertender Eugene Smith entered the conflagration several times at great personal peril and rescued several shipmates. According to his commander’s report, Smith “is by far the most deserving of praise.” For his actions

that day, Smith was awarded the Medal of Honor for “extraordinary heroism in action” aboard the USS Decatur.

Interestingly, although there is no doubt that Smith received the Medal of Honor, his name was left off the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes Wall upon which the name of each Medal of Honor recipient is listed. This situation came to light when a reporter for the Quincy Herald Whig was researching Smith’s life for a 1996 article relating to the christening of the fifth iteration of the USS Decatur. Still on duty, this latest vessel is a guided missile destroyer. The Historical Society is currently in the process of contacting the Navy to see if Smith’s name has been added to the list.

Smith continued his service in the Navy until his death. Lobar pneumonia took his life on 24 March 1918 in the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. He was buried in Cypress Hills National Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.



CALFTOWN STORIES: STIPPS RESTAURANT

By: Rob Mellon

In the 19th century, many German farmers migrated west to develop farms and small communities, while many other Germans moved to larger cities. Using the river system of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, German immigrants populated several towns throughout the Midwest, including Cincinnati, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Quincy, and others. Many of these immigrants were skilled German workers who came to the American cities looking for opportunity and security. They found it in places like Quincy.

Many of the German immigrants who came to Quincy settled in the southwest part of town. The southwest part of Quincy became known as “Calftown.” This area of the city was filled with German churches, stores, and markets. Quincy was growing and developing, and the family-oriented German neighborhoods began to thrive, particularly in Calftown. German heritage left an indelible mark on the early history of the city. In fact, several early German immigrants to Quincy purchased land directly from the town’s founder, John Wood.

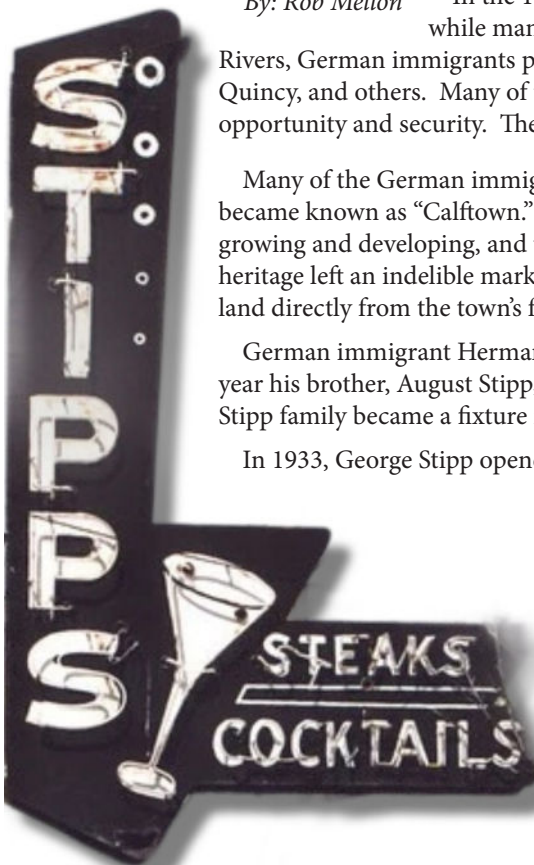
German immigrant Herman Stipp purchased two lots from John Wood in 1868 near 6th and Adams Streets. The following year his brother, August Stipp, bought the land from Herman and constructed a general store and saloon at that location. The Stipp family became a fixture in Calftown and operated the corner store for decades.

In 1933, George Stipp opened Stipp’s Restaurant in the family building at 6th and Adams. The restaurant was decorated

with fine walnut paneling, and the wooden booths were made by Huck’s Manufacturing of Quincy. The Grand Opening was on Thanksgiving Day in 1933 in the “Walnut Room.” The meal was a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings, a drink, and a choice of homemade mince, apple, or pumpkin pie.

Throughout the 1930s the restaurant was referred to as Stipp’s Hoffbrau. Stipp’s was open every day except Monday from 11am to 10pm and offered noon luncheons, an early bird menu, and evening dinner specials. In the 1930s, the dinner menu included a roast goose dinner for 50-cents; a roast chicken dinner for 40-cents; and broiled steak for 50-cents. Stipp’s also offered homemade chili and turtle soup, as well as roast beef and pork sandwiches for just 10-cents each. A roast beef sandwich with a side of turtle soup and a Pabst Blue Ribbon to wash it down appears to be the quintessential Calftown lunch.

At that time Stipp’s was certainly the place to be, even during the Great Depression.



On New Year's Eve in 1938, Stipp's Hoffbrau was open all night. They offered baked chicken, fried chicken, and turkey dinners, then served up a breakfast of ham, bacon, and eggs to the party goers as they welcomed in 1939. During the Second World War, the restaurant remained a destination for a great meal. After the war, Stipp's customer base began to grow.

In 1953, Stipp's Restaurant built an addition on the north side of the building. The new addition included a large banquet room called the "Cypress Room" which could hold 150 guests. The walls in the "Cypress Room" were decorated with large color images of Quincy, including the John Wood Mansion. The new building also had a quaint cocktail lounge called "The Shadow Box." The small cocktail lounge was advertised as a "cozy place" and a "friendly rendezvous." The improvements at the restaurant also included a state-of-the-art refrigeration and air conditioning system.

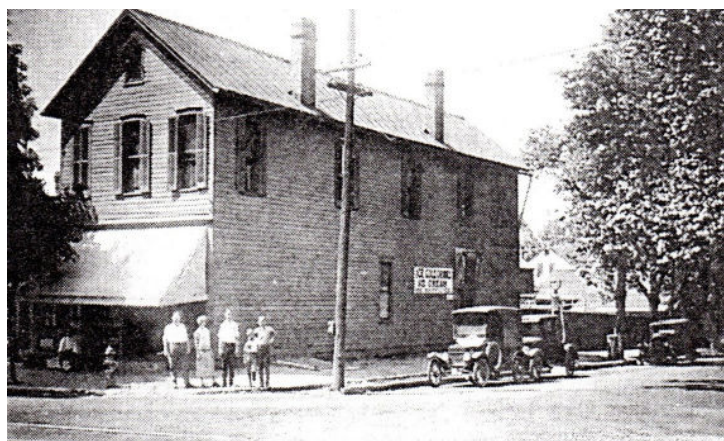
In 1954, Stipp's opened the "Steak Pit" on the lower level of the restaurant. Steaks were cooked over a large open charcoal pit that was positioned in the center of the dining room. The steak dinners were served up by classy waiters wearing red jackets and black bow ties. The tables were adorned with a single red rose in the center. The Steak Pit offered expanded hours and was open every night from 5pm to 1am.

As one might expect, operating a large open-flame pit inside the building could present problems. On October 26, 1957, a fire was ignited when grease from the grill splattered on the canopy above the pit and caught fire. Employees sprang into action and used hand-held fire extinguishers to contain the blaze. By the time the Quincy Fire Department arrived the fire was extinguished, but there was significant smoke damage. Without question, 1957 was a tough year at 6th and Adams, because that same year the owner and operator of Stipp's Restaurant, Arthur Stipp, Sr. died of a heart attack at a hotel in Springfield, Illinois, leaving his son, Arthur Stipp, Jr., to take over operation of the business.

Arthur Stipp, Jr. was a 1943 graduate of Quincy High School and served as a bombardier and navigator for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Following the war, he worked at Stipp's

Restaurant for a time, but also owned Quincy Homebuilders. His construction company built the Ridgewood, Edgewood, and Payson Heights subdivisions. Arthur Stipp, Jr. took control of the restaurant in 1963.

The same year Arthur, Jr. became owner and operator of Stipp's Restaurant, it was totally destroyed by fire. In less than a year, a new building was built at 6th and Adams -- the current building at that location. The restaurant reopened on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1964. The new building was slightly smaller in order to accommodate the construction of a courtyard on



August Stipp bought land at 6th and Adams Streets in Quincy and opened a general store and saloon in 1869. In 1933, George Stipp opened Stipp's Restaurant in the family building in Calftown.

the south side of the building. The lower level was used for parties and receptions.

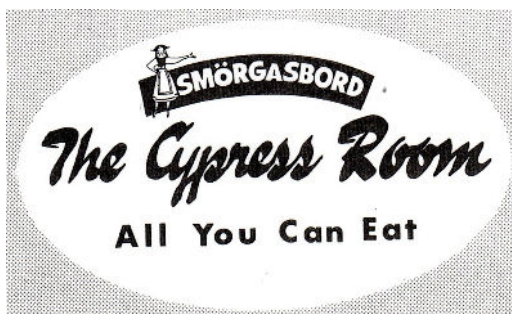
By the middle of the 1960s, Arthur Stipp, Jr. and the Stipp family operated one of the finest restaurants in the Gem City. The establishment won many awards and recognitions and became known throughout the Midwest. It was featured on the cover of the *National Restaurant Association Magazine* and the travel editor at the Chicago Tribune praised the menu, especially their signature grilled pork chops.

Unfortunately, on January 3, 1999, Arthur Stipp, Jr. died. Arthur and Doris Stipp had operated Stipp's Restaurant since 1963, and Doris faced a major problem: the liquor license was in Arthur Stipp's

name, so the restaurant and bar were forced to close for a time after Arthur's death. Soon Arthur and Doris's daughter, Cherie, and her husband, Dale Blickhan, became the new owners and operators and reopened the popular restaurant. On January 16, 2000, however, Stipp's closed its doors for good. It was the oldest restaurant in Quincy at the time.

There have been several restaurant and food service ventures in the Stipp's building at 6th and Adams over the first decade of the early 2000s. Tony and Connie Sohn bought the building at auction for \$46,000 in September 2000 and opened Sohn's Family Buffet. In 2003, Steve Gates and Judy Liesen opened Stipp's Pizza and Pub at that location and used much of the décor from the original Stipp's Restaurant. Stipp's Pizza and Pub used fresh ingredients and offered homemade dough. There was also a bar and outdoor patio. The pizzeria did not stay open long, however, and in 2009, Jack Miller (after navigating some zoning issues) opened Jodettes Family Restaurant in the old Stipp's building.

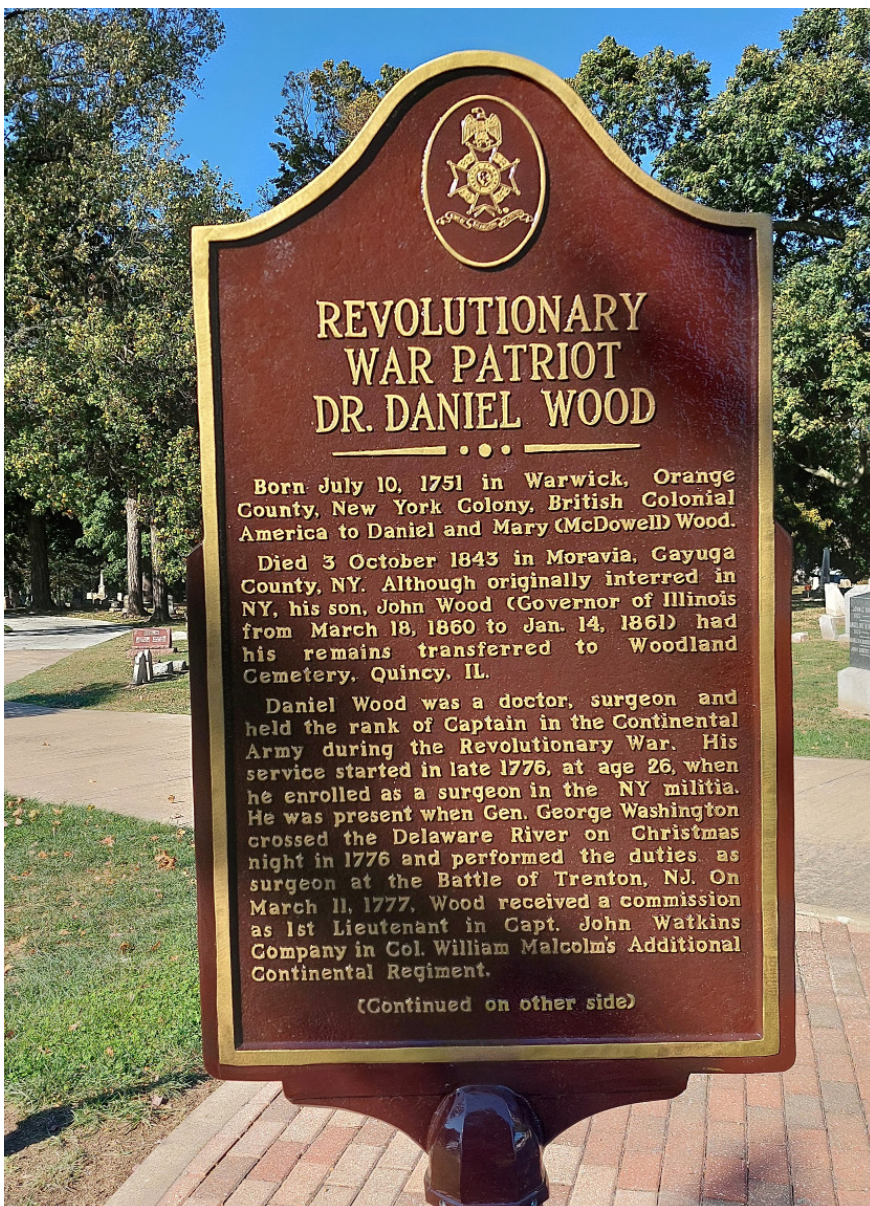
Sadly, by 2010, the old German neighborhoods of Calftown were not the same. Much of the commerce shifted to the eastern part of the city and it became exceedingly difficult to maintain a successful restaurant at 6th and Adams. It was an amazing and historic journey for Stipp's, however, and one that lasted 132 years. Those that have had the pleasure of dining there can always say they ate at one of the finest restaurants Calftown-and Quincy- has ever seen!



In 1954, Stipp's opened the "Steak Pit" on the lower level of the restaurant. Steaks were cooked over a large open charcoal pit that was positioned in the center of the dining room.



HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION RECOGNIZES DR. DANIEL WOOD





Recipe from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant

Lafayette Gingerbread

RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup packed dark brown sugar
- 1 cup molasses
- 3 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 3 large eggs, plus 2 egg whites, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup fresh orange juice
- 1 tablespoon freshly grated orange zest
- Fairy Butter for serving (optional)

**Recipe made by Mary Ball Washington for the
Marquis de Lafayette - named in his honor.**

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350-degrees and butter a 9-inch square cake pan.
2. Combine butter and brown sugar and beat until light and fluffy. Add the molasses, and continue to beat until well combined.
3. Sift flour with the ginger, cinnamon, cloves, and allspice.
4. Alternately add the eggs and flour to the butter mixture, beating very well after each addition.
5. Add orange juice and zest, and continue beating for several minutes until batter is smooth and light.
6. Pour batter into pan and bake for 35 to 45 minutes. Set the cake on a rack to cool.



Washington Park. In 1949 the largest Christmas party in the history of Washington Park was held. By 9:30 am more than 4,000 people were lined up to see Santa Claus.

LARGEST CHRISTMAS PARTY EVER HELD IN WASHINGTON PARK, 1949

By: Rob Mellon

During World War II many community events, festivals, and parties were canceled or muted out of respect for those who were serving and to honor the great sacrifices that had been made during the war. At the conclusion of the war, however, this sober and reverent mood was replaced by one of expressive revelry and celebration. Community events following the war became grand spectacles, especially at Christmas time.

In 1945, the owner and operator of Pix Photo in Quincy, Mr. June Berghofer, came up with an idea to have a massive public Christmas party for all of the children of Quincy and the surrounding area. Berghofer planned the community Christmas parties in 1945 and 1946, paying all of the expenses himself. With the event becoming more popular and increasingly larger, Mr. Berghofer turned to the Quincy Exchange Club for help in 1947. June Berghofer continued his service to the community at Christmas time by visiting all of the senior centers in Quincy and

delivering gifts and holiday cheer to the elderly of the city.

With the Exchange Club's involvement, the community Christmas party became a truly massive event. By 1947 the party had grown noticeably in size. Then in 1948, a new feature was introduced when Santa arrived at 5th and Maine by helicopter to meet the crowds filling Quincy's downtown.

By 1949, the Exchange Club event became the largest Christmas party ever held in Washington Park. Early Saturday morning on December 17, 1949, a long waiting line extended from Washington Park north to 5th Street, then west down the block on the north side of the park. People were standing elbow to elbow awaiting the arrival of St. Nicholas. By 9:30 am, more than 4,000 people were waiting.

At 9:30 am, a red aerial fire truck raced down Maine Street led by a motorcade of motorcycle officers and police cars from the Quincy Police Department. Onlookers waved and cheered as the authorities cleared the

path for Kris Kringle. The Chief of Police, Ray Welsh, and the Fire Chief, George Simon, were in the motorcade ensuring the safe arrival of the fire truck which presumably started its journey at the North Pole. The fire engine stopped on Maine Street across from the bandstand in Washington Park, and Santa Claus, in great splendor, climbed down the ladder and was greeted by Quincy mayor George Meyer, Jr. The children gathered in the park peered on with wonderment and amazement.

"Jingle Bells" rang out over the public address system as Santa Claus made his way through the huge crowd of people to an impressive igloo structure that was set up in the center of the park. Members of the Exchange Club had built an igloo with glass sides so visitors could see Santa. A tall, great white Christmas tree decorated with electric bulbs and beautiful ornaments stood in the igloo next to Santa. The first group to see the jolly old elf were youngsters from Lincoln School.

Throng of people congregated around the igloo to watch St. Nicholas dispensing cheer and giving presents to the visiting children. Most of the children gave Santa a handwritten letter, so his mail bag was filled to capacity.

The people kept coming, and by noon there were more than 10,000 people in Washington Park. Traditional carols played and the chimes of Christmas bells filled the downtown. Each child received a present, a long stick candy cane, and a balloon from Santa Claus. Some Exchange Club members assisted Santa in handing out presents, while several others were scattered throughout Washington Park to help manage the line formed to see Old Man Christmas. The event was captured by still and motion picture cameras by Ray White, Bill Hart, and Dr. Jim Hafner.

Several heartwarming stories were shared among the merry makers. One boy handed Santa an all-day sucker after receiving his gifts. Another boy emptied his pockets and gave St. Nick 13-cents saying, "All for you." Santa told the young man, "I never take things; I always give," and he handed the pennies back to the boy. One young girl offered Santa two cookies, saying she saved them for him because she knew he liked cookies. Christmas spirit filled the souls of all that peered into the igloo that day.

In one heartbreaking moment, a small boy shivering without a coat told Santa, "Never mind me, but give me something for my sick brother who hasn't any Christmas." Santa provided for the boy and his brother. The president of the Exchange Club, Bud Bueter, who was the chairman of the event said, "I never realized what Santa and Christmas mean to little children. It surely warmed my heart to watch."

The party was not without its challenges. At one point, a father and his two sons had finally made their way through the long line to the front. The two boys ran off into the park moments before they were to see Santa, however, and by the time the father had collected up his two sons, he was forced to take a spot at the end of the line.



Following WWII, June Berghofer was the person that came up with the idea to have a Christmas party for all of the children of Quincy and the surrounding area. He turned the planning for the party over to the Exchange Club in 1947.



Washington Park. More than 10,000 people attended the Exchange Club's Christmas party in downtown Quincy in 1949.

The crowd was so large that Santa Claus was not able to break for lunch. Luckily, Miss Harriet Musselman brought some fresh coffee to Kris Kringle and Walter Wellman, his helper in the igloo.

The man playing Father Christmas was definitely the star of the event. Several people say that they could not recall a happier or jollier Santa Claus. He had long white whiskers and was adequately plump--essentials for any Santa. The man who played St. Nicholas in 1949 was James "Bud" Willer. He had a striking resemblance to Santa and was known to be a happy, kind, thoughtful, and caring man. He was the perfect person to play Santa for the largest Christmas party downtown Quincy had ever experienced. Willer had been the Director of Adult

Education for the WPA during the Great Depression and was a veteran of World War II. He played Santa Claus for 26 years with his last appearance in 1971.

People of all ages came to the Christmas party in the park in the winter of 1949. Mothers with babies in their arms, fathers clutching the hands of their children, and grandparents gleefully hugging and embracing their grandchildren. It was truly a festive, colorful, and heart touching gathering. The Exchange Club's Christmas Party of 1949 was without question a smashing success.



Santa Claus came down Maine Street in a red aerial fire truck. He climbed down from the ladder and was greeted by the mayor of Quincy. James "Bud" Willer played Santa Claus at the Christmas party in the park in 1949.



FROM THE COLLECTION

S.I. Bragg Candy Company Coupon – Bragg's Red Mill Chocolate



Sylvanus Ingram "Si" Bragg was born in Newark, Shelby County, Missouri in 1860. The Bragg family was well

known in Virginia, Kentucky, and Missouri. His grandfather, also named Sylvanus Ingram Bragg, was from a prominent Virginia family who moved to Kentucky and later Missouri. The elder Sylvanus Bragg became judge of Shelby County, Missouri, in 1856.



Sylvanus Ingram

S.I. Bragg grew up in pioneer surroundings in Shelby County, Missouri. He married Mina Stacy and the couple moved to Quincy, Illinois. The two never had children. He started a successful retail candy business at 129 N. 6th Avenue in Quincy. He built a large confectionary manufacturing business on 4th Street near Hampshire where he sold and made fine candies. In the early 1900s, new manufacturing techniques resulted in cheap candy flooding the market. S.I. Bragg refused to lower product standards and reduce the quality of his fine candy for mere profit, however, so he sold his candy factory in the 1920s.

During WWI when there was a sugar shortage, Bragg turned over the sugar shipment he had contracted for his factory. At the time he could have made a tremendous profit from the sugar, but he sold the sugar back at cost for the benefit of the war effort.

S.I. Bragg was well-known, well-respected, and well-liked. He was close friends with Governor Louis Emmerson and Governor Henry Horner. Horner would make history as the first Jewish Governor of Illinois. Due to his business ethics and honesty, Governor Horner appointed Bragg a state inspector of race tracks in Illinois.

After the sale of his factory, S.I. Bragg worked as the superintendent at a large candy factory in Atlanta for a while, before returning to Quincy. Upon his return and until his death he operated a flour, cigar, and candy business from the rotunda of the Illinois State Bank building in Quincy. He famously greeted every person that entered the Illinois State Bank building. When he died it was said he had more friends than any other person in town.

Bragg used a coupon as a marketing tool to increase the sales of Bragg's Red Mill chocolate. If a customer would return 25 coupons to S.I. Bragg Candy Company, the business would send the customer a sterling silver spoon. This artifact, pictured, is in the collection of the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County. If anyone knows more about the Bragg spoon coupon or the sterling silver spoon please contact the Historical Society at (217) 222-1835.



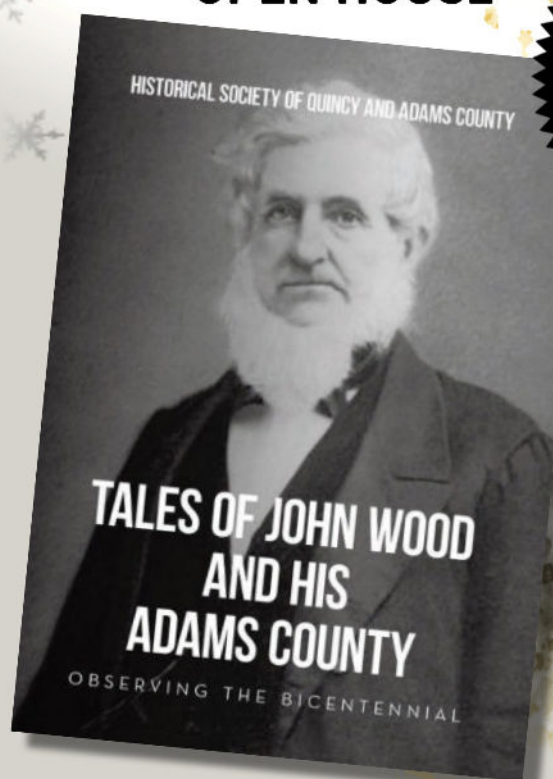
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BOOK LAUNCH



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**BOOK LAUNCH & SIGNING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024**

FROM 1:00PM - 3:00 PM

**GOVERNOR JOHN WOOD MANSION
425 S. 12TH ST., QUINCY, ILLINOIS**

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF QUINCY & ADAMS COUNTY





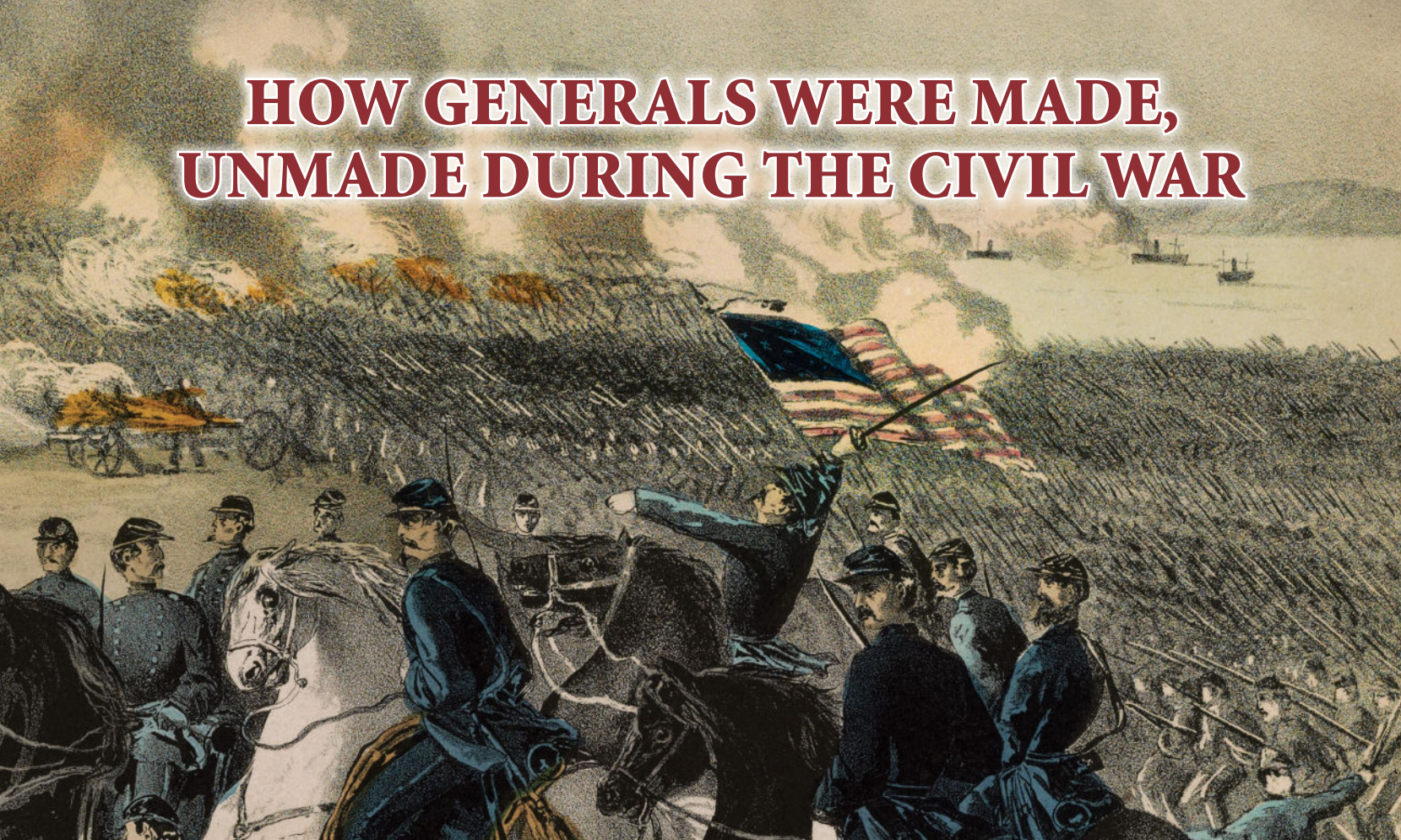
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oodland Cemetery was once again the site of one of the Historical Society's most popular events, the Woodland

Cemetery Ghost Tours. Scheduled in October on all Saturdays plus Halloween, this year's event offered participants a glimpse into the lives of Woodland spirits who were involved in various aspects of the Civil War and World War II as well as some who were popular Quincy musicians. Highlights of the Ghosts of Shiloh tour included the appearance of nationally known living history re-enactor Curt Fields as General Ulysses S. Grant who visited soldiers and medics who supported him in battle. One of the high points of the Musical Spirits tours was Ben Morrison, great grandson of Quincy musical icon Paul Morrison for whom Quincy Junior High School's theater is named, who portrayed his great grandfather. The World War II tours included Timothy Jacobs and Gerry Wagner as General Paul Tibbets, the Quincyan who dropped the bomb on Hiroshima during World War II; Angela Gutting, Katie Kraushaar and Susan Deege appeared as Red Cross workers and USO members who supported the war effort off the field. Nearly 600 attended the Woodland Tours, the largest fundraiser for the Society.

Actors included Kent Adams, Bill Burns, Bobette Cawthon, Susan Disselhorst, J.T. Dozier, Adam Duesterhaus, Rodney Farr, Curt Fields, Jack Freiburg, Kirk Gribler, Angela Gutting, Dave Harbin, Tim Jacobs, Martin Kocher, Katie Kraushaar, Jan Leimbach, Amy Looten, Ben Morrison, Lynn Snyder, Gerry Wagner, J. Matthew Ward, and Paul Warning. Tour Guides were Heather Bangert, Bob Bergman, Mary Ann Freeman, Rodney Hart, Jan Leimbach, and Lynn Niewohner. Rhonda Basinger, Arlis Dittmer, Jan Hummel, Rich Keppner, Lynn Niewohner, Teresa Pickle, and Cecil Weathers worked the registration table, and Dan Doane and Rob Mellon served as the set up/tear down crew.

HOW GENERALS WERE MADE, UNMADE DURING THE CIVIL WAR



Battle of Shiloh. General Prentiss commanded the 6th Division of Ulysses S. Grant's Army of Tennessee at the Battle of Shiloh.

By: Dr. David Costigan

Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss could trace his family lineage back to the Mayflower. The Virginia-born Prentiss moved to Illinois in 1841 at age 21. He received some military experience as a militia lieutenant in Illinois' Mormon "troubles" of 1844-1845.

In the Mexican War he served as a captain of the First Illinois Volunteers that earned distinction at the battle of Buena Vista. After the war, Prentiss returned to Quincy to study law. In 1860 he made his one flirtation with politics by running for Congress. William A. Richardson, another Quincyan, soundly defeated him.

Of note, Stephen A. Douglas carried the same district over Abraham Lincoln in the 1860 presidential election.

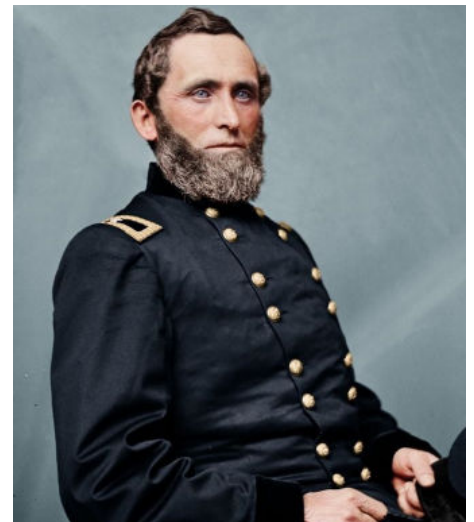
When the Civil War erupted in April 1861, Prentiss was a colonel in the Illinois militia and was given command of seven companies at Cairo at the extreme southern end of the state. In late April his men seized rebel munitions aboard river steamers, an indication of his aggressiveness. It was done four days before the War Department authorized such confiscations.

While Prentiss was in command at Cairo, Ulysses S. Grant was a mustering officer in Springfield. In August both were named brigadier generals, their commissions predated to May 17.

When Grant moved to Cairo, he gave orders to Prentiss, who balked, claiming that he was the senior officer. Grant announced that by law, because of his former rank in the U.S. service, he was the superior officer. Prentiss demurred before leaving for St. Louis to seek another command. He subsequently was commissioned to oversee northern Missouri above the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad.

In his memoirs, Grant lamented Prentiss's decision to leave his command. Grant wrote: "General Prentiss made a great mistake ... When I came to know him better, I regretted it much ... He would have been next to myself in rank in the district of southeast Missouri ... He was a brave and very earnest soldier. No man in the service was more sincere in the cause for which we were battling; none more ready to make sacrifices or risk life on it."

Grant's faith in Prentiss showed up in the dramatic events of April 1862 in Tennessee.



Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss was born in Virginia and moved to Illinois in 1841. He had significant military experience with the Illinois Mormon troubles and in the Mexican War before the Civil War.

The high point of Prentiss's service came as he commanded the 6th Division of Grant's Army of Tennessee at the battle of Shiloh. Union troops encamped near Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., were surprised by a rebel assault under the command of Gen. Albert Sydney Johnston. Prentiss's troops managed to hold off the rebels for about six hours. Prentiss's position was overrun and he was



Major General Prentiss defeated Confederate general Sterling Price at the Battle of Helena, Arkansas. The outcome was an impressive victory for the Union Army.

compelled to surrender. Nevertheless, some historians contend that Prentiss and his troops bought valuable time with their brave defense, which helped the Union forces on the second and third days turn the tables on the rebels at Shiloh, producing an important victory.

Prentiss was held in Confederate prisons until October 1862, when he was exchanged. He was rewarded for his service with a promotion to Major General, reassigned to Grant's command and detailed to oversee the defense of the eastern district of Arkansas.

In early July 1863, news arrived in Quincy that Prentiss's troops had been attacked at Helena, Ark., by troops commanded by Confederate Gen. Sterling Price, a former Missouri governor. The Quincy Daily Herald published Prentiss's account of the battle. Prentiss had anticipated an attack and established formidable defenses, placing four batteries of artillery on heights overlooking invasion routes. Trees were felled to block roads. The outcome was an impressive victory. Prentiss's forces were outnumbered by approximately 6,500 to 4,000. Ironically, his victory was overshadowed by the huge Union successes at Gettysburg and Vicksburg at about the same time. The action at Helena, also ironically, constituted Prentiss's final combat action.

On July 17, less than two weeks after his notable victory, Prentiss returned to Quincy and was feted in a reception hosted by the activist women's organization, the Needle Pickets. Prentiss sought a new command but none was forthcoming. In October 1863 he resigned from the army on grounds of health and family responsibilities. In fact, he was perturbed



Major General Prentiss had anticipated an attack in Arkansas and established formidable defenses at Helena. He placed artillery on the heights overlooking the avenues of approach. He also had Union engineers place obstacles on the roads leading to the town.

at being passed over for command. Gen. Stephen Hurlbut, a self-promoting officer and a fellow division commander at Shiloh, notified General-in-Chief Henry Wager Halleck that he disapproved of any position for Prentiss. Thus a "hero" of the battles of Shiloh and Helena spent the last 18 months of the war at home.

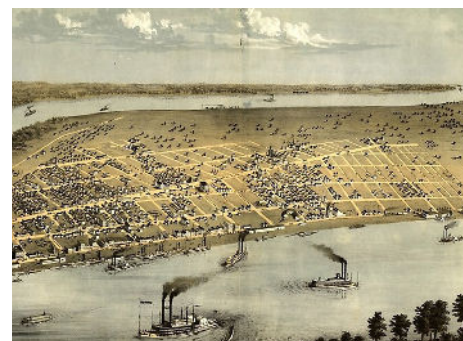
The Prentiss story reveals more about Civil War leadership than immediately meets the eye. Early in the war the huge expansion of the military required a hurried search for leaders. Prentiss had served in the Mexican-American War and had run for political office and thus appeared to fill the need. He acquitted himself well at Cairo, Shiloh and Helena, but now authorities determined that other officers better fit their plans for the remainder of the war.

By the latter half of 1863 the sorting process had worked itself out and the Union army consigned Prentiss to the sidelines.

Prentiss practiced law in his return to civilian life. When Ulysses S. Grant became president in March 1869, he had a place for his old comrade, in April naming him pension agent. He served in this capacity for eight years. In 1881, Prentiss moved to Bethany, Mo., where he served as general agent for the federal land office. In 1888, President Benjamin Harrison named him postmaster of Bethany and he was reappointed by President William McKinley. The government he had served had taken care of him with three separate



Benjamin Prentiss, pictured on the right front, moved to Bethany, Missouri, in 1881 to serve as an agent at the Federal Land Office in Missouri. In 1888, he was named postmaster of Bethany by President Benjamin Harrison.



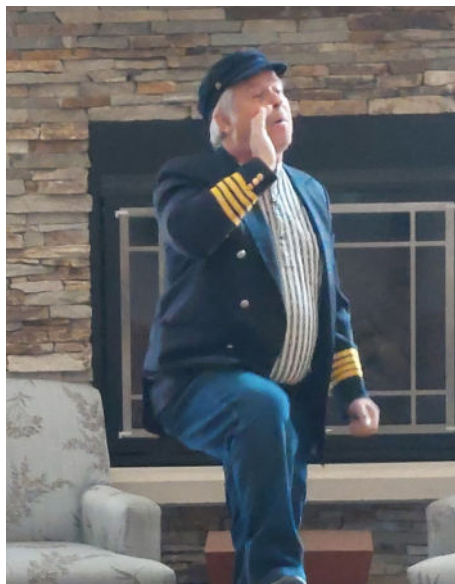
Cairo, Illinois. Benjamin Prentiss was a Colonel in the Illinois militia and was given command of seven companies at Cairo.

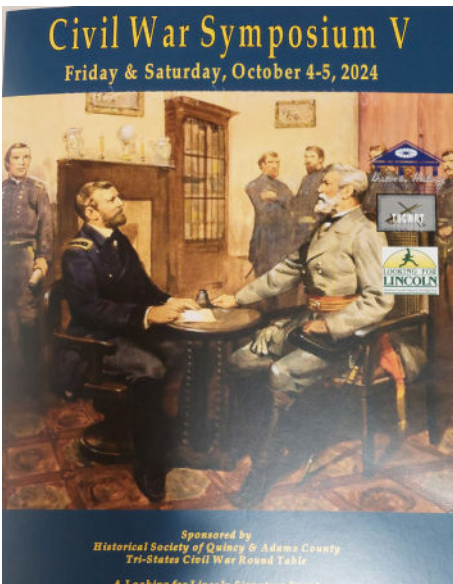
patronage appointments. Prentiss died in 1901 at the age of 81.

Was Benjamin Mayberry Prentiss a politician who became a general? The answer must be a qualified one.

In the military situation brought on by the Civil War, there was need to expand from about 16,000 troops to more than one million. Where were the officers to come from for this huge expansion? Because of his previous experience, Prentiss seemed a logical choice for command and acquitted himself quite well. Later in the war he was deemed of lesser competence and was deprived of additional commands. Whether this was a legitimate judgment is debatable. As a Republican politician he had advantages in receiving a significant command. His partisan posture likewise aided him in the postwar picture.

Did the system work in Prentiss's case? It can be concluded that a jerry-built structure worked tolerably well, and Prentiss acquitted himself in ways that brought credit to himself and to his community.







EXPERIENCE OF ROBERT YOUNG, COMPANY H 115 ILLINOIS INFANTRY

By: Beth Young

For years, I have thought about researching the Civil War activities of my paternal great grandfather, but other interests took precedence, and I never got the job done. His name was Robert Young. No initial. Just Robert Young. I also knew that he served in the Union Army and spent time at Andersonville, that Georgian hell-hole for prisoners of war. Beyond this, I had no clue.

As I worked my way through a few family papers, and as Hsqac research librarian Jean Kay roamed the pages of Fold Three and other mysterious sources for me, I found out more.

Robert Young was born in Chester, Chester County, South Carolina, on August 2, 1838, and moved to Illinois via Indiana some time later with his family. Before

he was mustered into Company H of the 115th Illinois Infantry at Springfield's Camp Butler on 13 September 1862, he farmed near Mt. Auburn, Illinois, in the central part of the state about 20 miles east of Springfield.

In January of 1863, he was transferred to Company A of the same 115th by special order of Colonel J. H. Moore. Soon thereafter, he was twice hospitalized in Nashville, Tennessee, for unknown problems. In the spring of 1863, a note was made in his record that he had been erroneously transferred to Company A, so he was reassigned to his original group. The next entry in his muster paperwork indicates that he was missing in action near Chattanooga in the fall of 1863; this was followed days later by a cryptic statement: "captured near Chattanooga, Tenn. Sept. 24, 1863." The last entries in

his record note that he was paroled "at the N.E. Bridge, N.C. Mch 1/65" and was mustered out on 14 June 1865 at Camp Butler. He was given back pay, and it was noted that he was to receive three months extra remuneration

According to Robert's enlistment papers, he was 24 years old when he entered the Army; he stood 5'4", had auburn hair, hazel eyes, and was of fair complexion. He was apparently of healthy, Protestant stock and was one of ten children of James S. Young and his wife, Susanna Kelsey Young.

[Two other sons of James and Susanna also enlisted in the Union Army. William (who had served in the Mexican War) and Ira joined the fight – William with the 115th Illinois, and Ira with the 10th Indiana Cavalry. William survived the war, but Ira succumbed to illness and died in a Nashville, Tennessee, hospital.]



Robert Young

Little seems to be recorded about most of Robert's military experience, but details of his capture on September 24, 1863, are found in three sources – in a letter written by an unknown Union soldier, by a diary kept by Edward Sowers of the 115th, and by testimony of Robert himself which is printed in the History of the 115th Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry written by Isaac Henry Clay Royce.

According to the letter from the unknown soldier, on September 24, 1863, 30 Union soldiers and four ferry operators were

“detailed to drop a ferry boat down the river 2 miles to ferry a train of wagons over to the north side of the river...And when opisit lookout mountain Where the railroad is nearest to the river they seen quite a number of soldiers sitting on the track duped in our uniform they was eating dinner and seeing those men took them for our men paid no more attention to them but in a few minutes some of them remarked that they all had disappeared and in a minute after a volley of musketry was opened to the surprise of all on board the boat being near the shoar and the first round killing their mules that run the boat.”

Realizing that they were under attack, the Federals tried to escape but were unsuccessful.

“Of the 34 on the boat 23 of them was taken by the rebs 4 of them got back to camp 5 drowned two of the drowned has since been found...”



Becky Butler, the owner and operator of The Budding Artist in Quincy, repairs the drawing of Andersonville Prison (c. 1880's) which is part of the Society's Collection.

One of the 23 captured was Robert Young.

Robert's own story, as found in the cited regimental history of the 115th Illinois, describes how he lived for the next 525 days.

Robert's Own Story

I was one of the party captured September 24, 1863, in the attempt to take the ferry-boat down to Brown's Ferry. After being searched and robbed of our valuables, we were taken to Richmond, Va., by way of Atlanta and through the Carolinas. On arrival at the capital of the confederacy we were put in the Pemberton building, an old tobacco factory. We were then searched and our money, watches and other valuables taken under promise that they would be returned when we should be exchanged or paroled. It is needless to say the promise was never kept. I had a five-dollar greenback, which I carefully hid in my clothes, and offered them eighty-five cents in script, which they refused to take, as I told them it was all I had. That \$5 when invested in bread fully compensated for the lie I told. We had a great time trading with the guards. A dollar in greenbacks was worth ten dollars in Confederate money. The eagerness of the Confederate guards to get Union money led some of our soldiers into sharp practice, by way of raising the denomination of bills, a \$1 bill being frequently raised to a \$10 and passed off on the guards as such, no great care being taken in scrutinizing the money. In that way the smart boys secured much good bread and tobacco without seriously

disturbing their conscience. In November we were taken to Danville and there kept in prison until 14 April 1864. We were then taken to Andersonville, Ga., where eight to ten thousand prisoners were confined in a stockade covering only a few acres. In June or July, the number of prisoners reached thirty thousand. I endured all the horrors of Andersonville known to any that were able to survive it. The story would be too long to give the details.

One-half of the prisoners had no shelter of any kind what-ever, and all suffered greatly for want of food. To add to the horrors of the situation, the prison was infested with a lot of our own men who would overpower the weak, take their rations and leave them to die. Such robberies were frequent, some of the gang not hesitating at murder. Finally, a police squad was formed among the prisoners, and about fifty of the robbers were taken out and tried by their fellow prisoners and six of them were condemned to be hanged for their crimes. On the 12th of July a gallows were erected and Captain Wirz, the prison commandant, delivered the six culprits to the other prisoners to be dealt with as their sense of reason, justice and mercy should dictate. The catholic priest begged that they might be spared. As they were about to ascend the scaffold, one of them tried to run away, but he was soon captured and led up with the others, and they were all hanged together. After that we had better order among us and the rights of the weak were more respected. The

terrible diseases, typhoid fever, dropsy, scurvy and diarrhea constantly prevailed in the camp, and the daily death list was frightful. As the men died they were carried on blankets to the dead house and thence to the cemetery, each being numbered and his name written on the death roll; many were marked unknown. Nearly fourteen thousand of our brave boys were left buried in that prison graveyard. It was a time of great rejoicing when we marched out of the prison pen, September 10, 1864, and started towards Charleston. We were then confined in a field at a race course, being guarded by the 5th Georgia regiment. We were removed from there to Florence, S.C., where about twelve thousand prisoners were confined, the death rate being almost as great there as at Andersonville. In November about two thousand were paroled; I being the twentieth man from the gate when the number was completed, was compelled to wait another chance. I had become weak from want of food that when I finally

left Florence I had to be assisted to the railroad, which Joseph Large and James Shaw of Company A did the best of their ability, for which I now desire to return them heartfelt thanks. It was then January, 1865. We stopped at Wilmington, N.C., on the day the Union army was fighting at Fort Fisher, and could hear the siege guns very distinctly. They then hurried us out of Wilmington to Goldsboro, our army entering the place soon after we left. We remained in Goldsboro until March 1st. There being no stockade, we were confined in a woods by a guard line thrown around us. Our fuel was green pine wood, and as it rained most of the time we had more smoke than fire, and a very uncomfortable time indeed. Soon after that we were numbered by thousands and paroled, and passed through the lines at Cape Fear River, some ten miles from Wilmington. I had been a prisoner for 525 days. From Wilmington I was taken to Annapolis, Md., and from there soon to Benton Barracks, near St. Louis; thence to

Camp Butler, where I mustered out of 14 June 1865. I was never exchanged, but was mustered out as a paroled prisoner.

In addition to Robert's personal reminiscences, I also found in the same stack of family papers a listing of the rules for Andersonville (officially Camp Sumpter) which was given to the prisoners at the facility. I will let the reader compare these rules, which may seem reasonable, to the reality described by my great grandfather. Facts according to the National Park Service: In its fourteen months of existence (February 1864-April 1865), over 45,000 prisoners were confined at Andersonville, a camp designed to hold 10,000 men; of these, nearly 13,000 died from various causes. Aspects of the camp, such as the "deadline" and the filth and lack of food, shelter, and medical supplies made life miserable for the inhabitants. Whether the Confederacy meant to create such a "hell-hole" or not, the story is a terrible one.

RULES OF ANDERSONVILLE PRISON

1. There will be two daily roll calls at the prison; one at 8 a.m. and on at 4 p.m.
2. The prisoners are divided into detachments of one hundred men each. Five detachments will constitute a division.
3. Each division must occupy the grounds assigned to it for encampment. No huts or tents must be erected outside the camping grounds.
4. Each detachment must elect a sergeant. The five sergeants of a division will appoint one of their number to draw rations of the whole division.
5. The sergeants are responsible for the cleanliness of their encampment. They will each day make a detail from among their men to police the camp throughout. Any man refusing to do police duty will be punished by the sergeant by bucking him for the rest of the day.
6. No rations will be issued to any division unless all the men are present

at roll call. The sergeant in charge of the detachment must report every absentee. If he fails to do so, and the missing man makes his escape he will be put in close confinement until the missing man is recaptured.

7. The sergeant of a detachment will report all the sick in his detachment and will carry them, after roll call, to the receiving hospital. After examination by the sergeant in charge he will leave those who are admitted and carry the others back. He will at the same time take charge of those belonging to his division who may be discharged from the hospital.

8. The prisoners have the privilege of writing twice a week. No letter must be over one page in length and must contain nothing but private matters.

9. Any prisoner has the right to ask an interview with the commandant of the prison by applying to the sergeant in charge of the gate between hours of 10 and 11 a.m.

10. The sergeants of detachments and divisions must report to the commandant of the prison any shortcoming of rations.

11. No prisoner must pass the dead line or talk with any guard on post or attempt to buy or sell anything to the sentinel, the sentinels having strict orders to fire at any one passing the dead line, if attempting to speak to or trade with them.

12. It is the duty of the detachment sergeant to carry any men, who should die in quarters, immediately to the receiving hospital, giving to the hospital clerk the name, rank regiment and State of the deceased

13. To prevent stealing in camp the prisoners have a right to elect a chief of police, who will select as many men as he deems necessary to assist him. He and sergeants of the divisions have a right to punish any man who is detected stealing. The punishment shall be shaving of one half of the head and a number of lashes, not exceeding fifty.

These rules were secured by A.J. Terrill of Company D, to whom I am indebted for them.

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Once again, the grounds of the Governor John Wood Mansion at 12th and State have been bustling with Adams County fourth graders. During September and October, 688 students from twelve area schools participated in our annual educational program.

Students moved through a variety of four different presentations, each of which lasted approximately 15 minutes. The children toured the first floor of the Mansion and heard about the house and its history. Items such as furniture, paintings, spittoons, and maps were noted, as were stories of the Wood Family.

Another site incorporated into our program was the authentic 1835 Log Cabin, replete with its herb and prairie grass gardens. Youngsters “scoped out” lamb’s ear, rattlesnake master, big bluestem, thyme, and other flora of the local mid-19th century. Inside the cabin they got a sense of the cramped living conditions on the frontier as they checked out pots, pans, brooms, a foot warmer, a loom, and other household objects.

One of the busiest stops on the whirlwind visit was the Livery where they saw Quincy’s first fire engine and an old horse-drawn hearse from the Lorraine, Illinois, area. Students received the opportunity to “pump” the imaginary water from the engine and form a bucket brigade before they checked out the wooden casket lying inside the hearse.

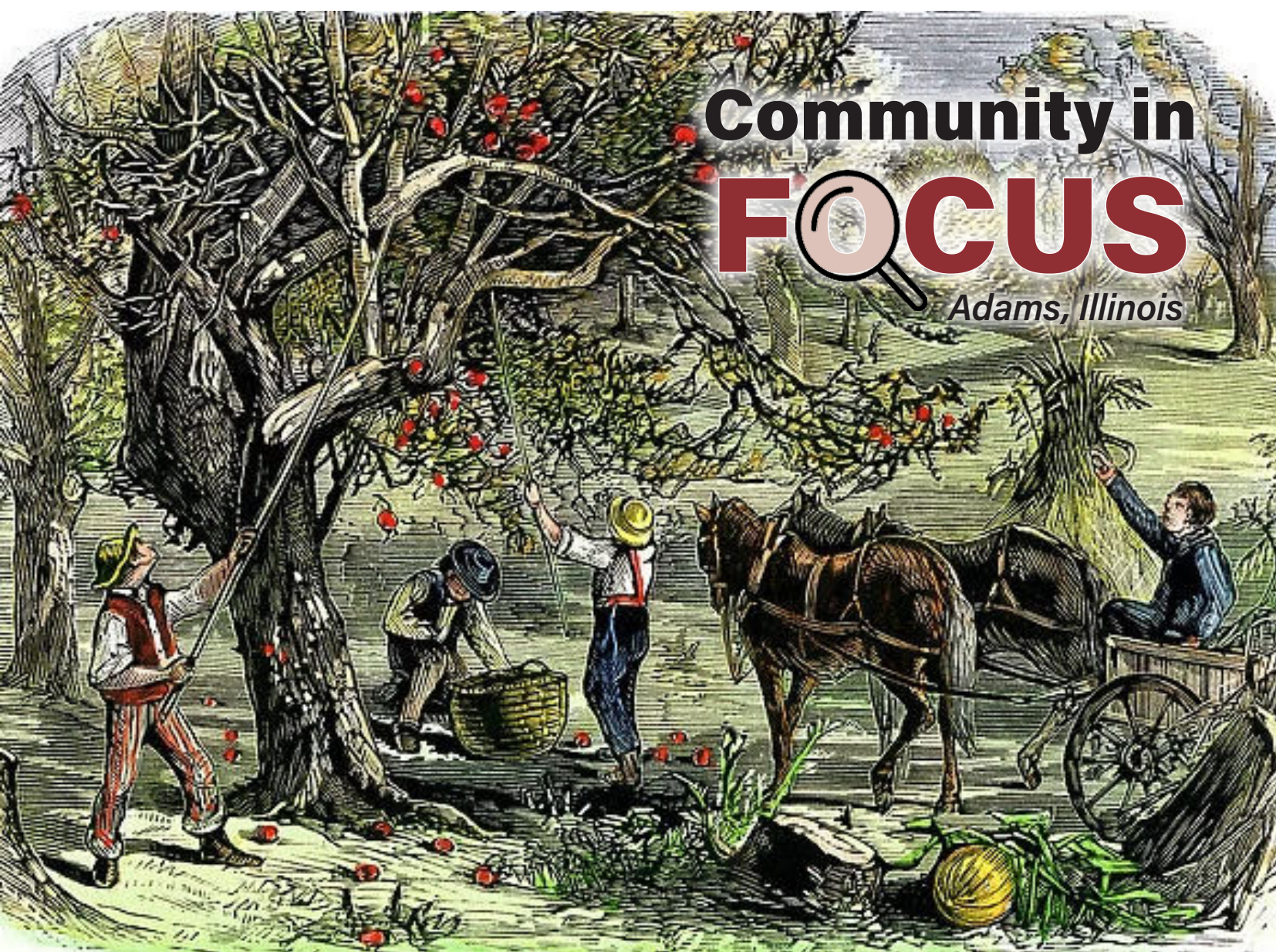
The final segment of the 4th grade program involved a mini-lecture regarding the history of Adams County and its citizens. Our volunteer guides explained a bit about our past and fielded questions from their young visitors.

Schools participating were Quincy schools Baldwin, Iles, Lincoln-Douglas, Rooney, Denman, St. Peter, St. Francis, St. Dominic, and Blessed Sacrament, and county schools Camp Point, Liberty, and Mendon.

Transportation and other costs for this elementary school event were covered by the Historical Society and Arts Quincy.

Another recent November educational program at the Society involved over twenty 11th grade Quincy Notre Dame students who participate in the school’s dual enrollment U.S. History class. The young historians toured the Mansion and the Lincoln Gallery with their instructor, HSQAC Board member and QU Assistant Professor Dr. J. Matthew Ward, as docents Jan Leimbach and Rich Keppner explained the importance of these two areas. Dr. Ward arranged for this activity in an attempt to show members of his class the importance of ante-bellum Quincy to the history of our nation and to help them understand the implications of the slavery issue in Quincy.

At the HSQAC, we take our mission to educate seriously. We will always attempt to accommodate individuals and/or groups, young or old, as they seek to understand more about our past. To that end, we remind you that we will do our best to serve your needs in this area. Please call our office 217-222-1835 to schedule assistance.



Community in **FOCUS** *Adams, Illinois*

ADAMS APPLES, PEACHES AND GRAPES, BUT NO CRANBERRIES

By: Linda Riggs Mayfield

John Wood set out on foot from his birthplace in Moravia, N.Y., just a month before he turned 20, to see what lay in the newly opened lands of the Midwest.

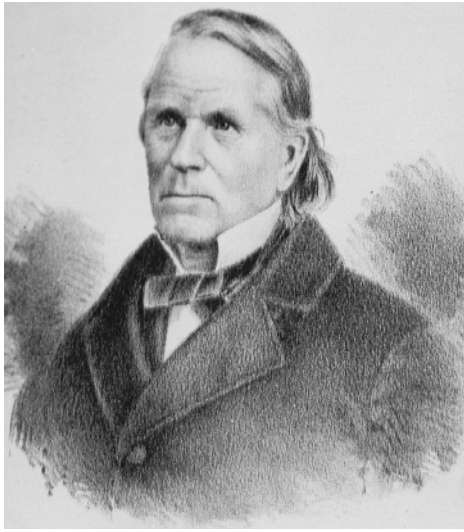
In southern Illinois he met Willard Keyes, a bookish 28-year-old teacher who had left his birthplace in Vermont several years earlier, also to head west. They agreed to seek their fortunes by farming together, and built a log cabin in Pike County, near Atlas. Wood was not satisfied with planted crops, however; he wanted to grow fruit

trees. Trees could be started from seeds, then the seedlings dug up and replanted the following year; or they could be grown by grafting live cuttings into other trees. Wood preferred starting his trees from seeds.

In the spring of 1820, John Wood walked from the cabin to the home of a Mr. Avery, north of St. Louis, where he paid one dollar for a pint of apple seeds, then returned and planted them all. Only three sprouted. Undeterred, that fall he walked to a cider mill on the Illinois side of the Mississippi

nearly opposite the French settlement of Portage des Sioux, now in Saint Charles County, Mo.

He was permitted to freely take the leftover “pomace” from the mill -- the mash of peels, cores, and seeds that remained after all the apple juice had been pressed out -- and wash out all the seeds he could retrieve. He carried those seeds back to the Pike County farm, where they sprouted into enough seedlings to supply Wood, Keyes, and their neighbors. He could not have imagined that those



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few seedlings would one day establish horticulture as a critical element in the economic and social life of Adams County.

In 1822, John Wood accompanied a Mr. Flinn, recipient of a veteran's bounty for a 160-acre tract of land north of the Wood/Keyes place, to see his property. Unimpressed, Flinn sold the land to Wood for \$60, or about 38 cents per acre. Wood left the Atlas area and built a cabin at "Bluffs," where Quincy's Delaware Street now ends at the river.

Many sources state that Keyes came north then, as well, but at least one account published during Wood's lifetime says his partner in building the cabin on the river was a man named Langley, followed by another Pike County farmer named Jeremiah Rose, who, with his wife and child, lived there. In either case, Keyes built his own cabin near present Front and Vermont streets in 1824.

In the spring of 1823, Wood planted some of his young apple trees on his new property between what are now 12th and 14th, and between State and Kentucky streets. Those trees became Quincy's first apple orchard. Wood also started some peach seeds that year, and the following spring, planted the future city's first peach orchard. The trees flourished, and by 1827, Wood had a harvest. In 1868, John Wood's son, D. C. Wood, measured some of their massive old tree trunks and reported to the Adams County Horticultural Society that several had circumferences of more than seven feet, and the largest



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measured nine feet, 10 inches. About 1830, Wood also planted chestnuts that grew into trees that were Quincy landmarks.

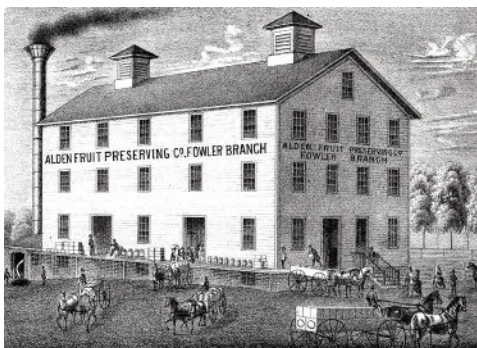
Settlers were soon moving into all parts of Adams County, and by 1832, several other orchards were thriving, including those of Willard Keyes, Major Rose, James Dunn, and Silas Beebe -- all of their trees planted as seedlings, and nearly all started by John Wood. Then in that year, George Johnson of Columbus brought grafted apple trees from Kentucky and established an orchard and a nursery. In 1836, Deacon Albigeance Scarborough, founder of Payson, paid a St. Louis nursery 25 cents apiece for enough grafted apple trees to establish an orchard. They had been started in Ohio, then brought west as seedlings. In 1839, Scarborough planted 200 peach trees.

Beginning in 1837, Clark Chatten of Fall Creek planted grafted apple trees purchased from Charles Stratton in Pike County. By 1839, he had 40 acres of apple orchards and had become the laughingstock of his short-sighted neighbors. They could not imagine a



copy

market existing for the produce of that many trees. But Chatten planted 12 acres of peach trees in 1840, and added peach, pear, and more apple trees year after year. His orchards gained accolades for quality as well as quantity.



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The official list of Premiums awarded by the Executive Committee of the Illinois State Agricultural Society in January, 1861, is evidence: For “Best Apple Orchard in bearing, not less than 100 trees,” Chatten was awarded Second premium. For the “Same not less than 500 trees” he was awarded First premium. For both “Best Peach Orchard, not less than 100 trees in bearing” and for “Same not less than 500 trees” he was awarded First premium, and no Second premiums were even awarded. By 1867, Chatten had 240 acres of apple trees and 187 acres of peach trees. For decades, he owned the largest orchards in the state.

In 1839 Payson settler William Stewart Sr., started a peach orchard from seeds retrieved from fruit purchased in Pike County. He had seed-grown apple trees, and also purchased 200 grafted apple trees and experimentally planted the apples and peaches in alternating rows in the same orchard. He traveled back to the East and returned in the fall with assorted ornamental and fruit trees, shrubs, seeds, and flowers, which he planted the following year.

He was also able to arrange for the purchase and delivery of a large shipment of apple “scions,” the cuttings used for grafting, from an orchard in Ohio, with which he greatly increased the production of his own trees by laboriously hand grafting them all the next spring. For the next 25 years, Stewart’s was the largest nursery in the county, at one time boasting about 300 varieties of apple trees.

In 1839 Henry Kent of Ellington Township purchased trees from Stewart in Payson and a doctor in Hancock County, and also procured a supply of apples, nectarines, and peaches from a nursery in Long Island, New York, with which he began his own operation. Orr and Mitchell at Payson, Hargiss and Sommer and Benton in Quincy, Kay and Kelley at Camp Point, Horn at Clayton, and Cutter at Beverly all had commercial orchards, as did others. Developing the perfect apple became almost an obsession. In 1868, an estimated 200,000 bushels of apples were shipped from the county, and in 1874, 200,000 1/3 bushel boxes of peaches were shipped. Robert Rankin of Fall Creek Township was elected the first president of the Adams County Horticultural Society in 1867, and served until his death in 1878.

Some of the early settlers attempted to grow grapes, but with limited success. The old Eastern varieties did not mature well, so the growers experimented with grafting the local wild grapes. Reportedly William Stewart Sr., had achieved some success with the grafting technique by about 1844, but in 1855, Deacon Scarborough introduced the cultivation of Concord grapes to the county. He bought vines from a Mr. Bull in

Concord, Mass., and was able to establish a highly successful Concord vineyard at Payson. “In five years from its introduction it was very generally disseminated and in ten years grapes were shipped from Quincy to Chicago, Saint Joseph, Leavenworth, and more remote points.” When they were rather rare, grapes cost 20 to 25 cents a pound; once they became established and abundant, they could be purchased for as little as 2 or 3 cents a pound, but even then, local growers made a profit.

All the initial attempts at horticulture were not successful, however. About 1832, John Wood acquired cranberries from the East and planted them in a ravine that at that time ran west from 12th Street between Jersey and York streets in which a natural spring created a swampy area. He enclosed his cranberry bog with a “substantial fence” and the plants thrived.

Apparently all the local folk had not heard about his achievement, however. One night a local butcher was having trouble driving a herd of cattle, and simply took down the fence and drove the animals into the enclosure he thought was an empty pasture.

By morning, the dreams of an Adams County cranberry crop were ended, and no further attempt was ever successful. Fortunately, John Wood’s contributions to the county’s horticulture were already well established.

Old Fashioned Egg Nog

Ingredients: *Reciepe*

1/2 Cup Granulated Sugar
4 Pasteurized Eggs
3/4 Cup French Brandy
1 Tablespoon Peach Brandy
4 Cups Heavy Cream
2 1/4 Cups Whole Milk
Grated Nutmeg, Optional

Directions:

- Place the sugar and eggs in a large mixing bowl. Whisk them together until light and fluffy.
- Whisk in the two types of brandy.
- Add the cream and milk and whisk until frothy.
- Ladle into serving glasses and sprinkle a small amount of nutmeg over the tops of each glass, if desired.

The first time egg nog was mentioned was from the City Tavern of Philadelphia in 1796, but egg-based drinks infused with alcohol is an English tradition going back centuries.

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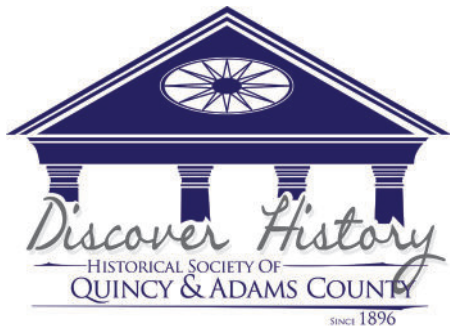
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