

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 351 West William  
Western Addition  
W60' E 100' NW 1/4 of Blk 13  
(Probably originally, 21 W. William and then 27 W. William before being re-numbered 351 W. William. In other listings in early city directories changes in house numbers seemed at first to be based on how many houses or structures preceded the given structure from the starting point of the numbering; thus 21 W. William may have meant, the 21st structure on William, west of North Main, even numbers on the north side, odds on the south, as is true now).  
Legal description - Western Addition, W60' E100' NW 1/4 of Blk 13.

Date of original construction: circa 1860 (See chain of title)  
1890 Estimate, assessor's office.  
They stress that this is an estimate.

Name of original owner: Tilghman H. Alexander.

History:

1. See attachment prepared by Barbara Lampe Wolf (Mrs. Dudley) of a partial chain of title prepared from the abstract.
2. Data from available city directories on occupants of the house. (Directories begin in 1871)
  - 1871-72 Moore, Dr. E. W. of the firm Moore and Barnes (Dr. Ira R.), physicians and surgeons, cor. E. Main and Water) res. 21 W. William.
  - 1873-84 Gehrman, Theodore A., dealer in dry goods, millinery, etc., 12 Merchant Street, res., 27 W. William. In 1884, res. listed as 351 W. William. It is presumed #27 and #351 were the same house. The chain of title (ownership) would tend to corroborate this.
  - 1885-86 Brueck, Peter H., secy. and treas., Decatur Steam and Tile Co. and wf, Annie Haworth Brueck. (Note: At this time Annie Haworth Brueck's father, Lysander L. Haworth, a former Decatur mayor and at this time pres., Decatur Steam and Tile, lived across the street at 364 W. William, presently (in 1976) the Decatur Day Care Center.
  - 1886- Directories for even-numbered years, not available. Only odd years were done.
  - 1887-93 Haworth, Mahlon.
  - 1894- No directory printed.

Present owner's name: Mrs. Barbara Lampe Wolfe (Mrs. Dudley).  
*Purchased by Eugene Strum, summer, 1976*

History Cont'd.:

2. Data from available city directories cont'd.:

- 1895- Atkin, Rev. F. N. (and Margaret R, wife), rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, res, 351 W. William. Not listed as owner. Note chain of title, Wm. E. Haworth was the owner).
- 1896- No directory printed.
- 1897-1910 Shultz, Maxwell W. and Cassie listed as owners throughout this period. Sometimes 2 and sometimes 3 other couples were also listed as occupants.
- 1911- Shultz, Catherine (wid, Maxwell W.)
- 1912-1915 Owner not listed as an occupant. Occupants varied, usually three in number.
- 1916-1940 Drobisch, E. F. and Fluta (and others)
- 1940-1950 Drobisch, Fluta (and others). (Died 1951).
- 1951- McMillin, Mrs. Ella (wid. J. B.).
- 1952-1973 Wolfe, Dudley A., dentist office (and others).

3. Data from the card in the Assessor's office is as follows:

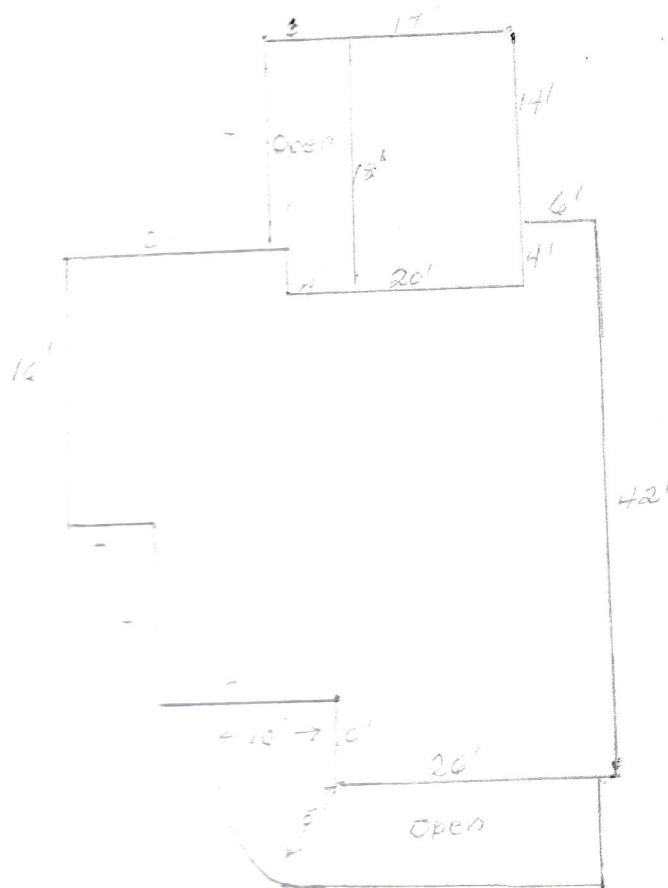
Type:

- 2- 6 family apt. and dentist's office  
2 stories  
11 rooms  
Masonry construction  
Brick walls  
Gable roof, medium pitch, of tin and tar  
2 porches  
25% basement  
11 rooms with hardwood floors  
Steam heat (gas)  
2 bathrooms  
1 apt - up - 4 rooms      7 closets  
1 apt - down 4 rooms  
3 room-dentist office  
3 natural fireplaces

(See sketch on following page)

History Cont'd.:

3. See sketch:



*Sketch from card in Decatur  
Township Assessor's office  
Not drawn to scale*

4. See attachments.

- a. Copies from pages of early histories regarding owners of the site before the present house was built.
  - (1) William Hanks, second cousin of Abraham Lincoln.
  - (2) William T. Crissey, Decatur's first doctor.
- b. Pages from early histories regarding owner-occupants of the present house.
  - (1) Tilighman H. Alexander.
  - (2) E. W. Moore.
  - (3) The Haworth family.
- c. Microfilm print-outs of pages from selected city directories.

Re 351 West William  
Decatur Ill.

- March 21, 1829 The United States of America to William Hanks, Jr. Conveys the West half of the North East Quarter of Section 15, Township 16 North, Range 2 East of the 3rd P.M. , containing 80 acres according to government survey.
- Nov. 13, 1836 William Hanks, Jr. & wife to William T, Crissey
- Dec. 29, 1836 26 acres off the East side conveyed to Jesse W. Fell
- March 9, 1839 Crissey and Fell had the West half of the North East quarter surveyed into " town lots, out lots, and blocks as an addition to the town of Decatur, denominated the Western Addition". Recorded in Book H, page 103.
- Oct. 13, 1840 Jess Fell & wife Hester to James Allen
- April 26, 1842 James Allen in Trust to William H. Allen to be sold to be sold for the benefit of certain creditors of said Allen.
- Nov 12, 1844 Wm. H. & James Allen to David Davis & Wells Colton ( 26 acres)
- 1845 (filed May 30 1848)  
David & wife Sarah Davis & Wells Colton to Henry Lehman
- July 20, 1855 100 feet off East side of lot to George W. Baker
- Nov. 14, 1856 Geo. & Catherine Baker to Stephen Nagus
- Jan. 20, 1857 Stephen Nagus of St. Louis Mo. to TILGHMAN H. ALEXANDER
- Dec. 3, 1860 WILL  
I give and bequeth to my beloved wife, Susan A. Alexander, to be accepted and received by her in lieu of ower, my new dwelling house situated in the City of Decatur, in the County of Macon and the State of Ill., situated on a lot of land and described as follows: 100 feet of ground off of the East side of the North West Quarter of Block 13 in the Western Addition to Decatur. The said house and house lot I give to her, in her own right, to her, her heirs and assigns forever.
- March 20, 1866 Susan A. Alexander and husband John H.(((a brother of first husband))) to Enoch Moore
- Oct 11, 1869 Enoch W. Moore & wife to Isaac Loose
- Aug. 22, 1873 Isaac Loose & wife to Theodore A. Gehrman



351 West William (cont)

June 4, 1877 T. A. Gehrman & wife to Clark Hedges \$2,000.00

Dec. 4, 1877 Clark A. Hedges to Emilie Gehrman \$2,000.00

(my comment - wonder if the old boy lost his house gambling and  
Mama paid it back and got the house in her name. The above 2  
entries were Warranty not Mortgage deeds)

May<sup>6</sup>, 1884 Emilie Gehrman & husband to Annie Haworth Brueck  
26 \$7500.00

Aug. 9, 1886 Annie Haworth Brueck & husband Peter H. to Mahlon  
Haworth

April 6, 1893 Will of Mahlon Haworth leaves bulk of estate to sons,  
Lysander L. , and George D. and daughters Anna M. Roby,  
Mary P. Simpson and grandson Wm. E. Haworth, son of  
James W. Haworth, deceased.....with certain strings  
attached and authorization to sell.

Aug. 3, 1894 Executors of M. Haworth estate to William E. Haworth

Jan. 7, 1896 Wm. Haworth to Catherine Shultz

Drawing of Block 13 shows this property as lot #3 so the corner lot where  
the church stands was not part of this property. When the lot was divided  
it would be the property to the east.)

June 22, 1916 Catharine E. Shultz to Fluta Drobisch (100-feet)

Catherine Shultz did a lot of borrowing and during her ownership 40  
feet to the east side of the original 100 feet were not included in  
the description nor were they sold to Fluta. I would guess that  
Catherine Shultz built the house next east either for sale or her own  
use, or sold the 40 feet outright. This would place the age of that  
house between 1896 and 1916. date

May 23, 1951 Will of Fluta Drobisch

Dec. 13, 1952 Ed. C. Drobisch & Myrtle, and Raymond W. & Mable to  
Dudley Anderson Wolfe and wife Barbara Lampe Wolfe

*Charlotta -  
Haworths will be of some help to you.*

*Betty Wolfe*

*Sept. 1974*



also went along. They were to be paid 50 cents a day, and \$60 to be divided at the end of the trip.

From Decatur to Springfield, where they were to meet Offutt, they made the trip in a canoe over the Sangamon. This was just about a year after Lincoln had arrived in Macon county. Never again did Abraham Lincoln come back to call Macon county his home. On his return from the trip south Lincoln was offered a job in Offutt's store in New Salem. That ended his connection with Macon county, as a home, and opened a new chapter in his life, his career at New Salem.

JOHN HANKS

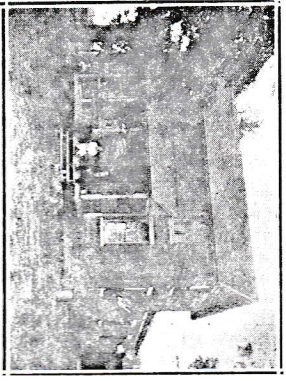
John Hanks, who was so intimately associated with his cousin, Abraham Lincoln, and who induced Lincoln, to make his first public speech, was a picturesque figure. He was one of the earliest settlers in the county, and lived here until his death July 1, 1889. His body lies in Boiling Springs cemetery.



Outside of his connection with Lincoln, he was one of the county's busy citizens. He served on the first and second grand juries, was a ranger in Captain Johnson's company during the Black Hawk war, made numerous trips to New Orleans by flat-boat, and in the Civil war was a wagon master in Grant's regiment. During the gold rush he made a trip to California, remaining three years, and after the Civil war made several trips west. He was appointed as Indian agent by President Lincoln.

JOHN HANKS  
It is thought that John Hanks was the only one of the Hanks family invited to Abraham Lincoln's wedding. Once after Lincoln was elected president Hanks visited him at the White House.

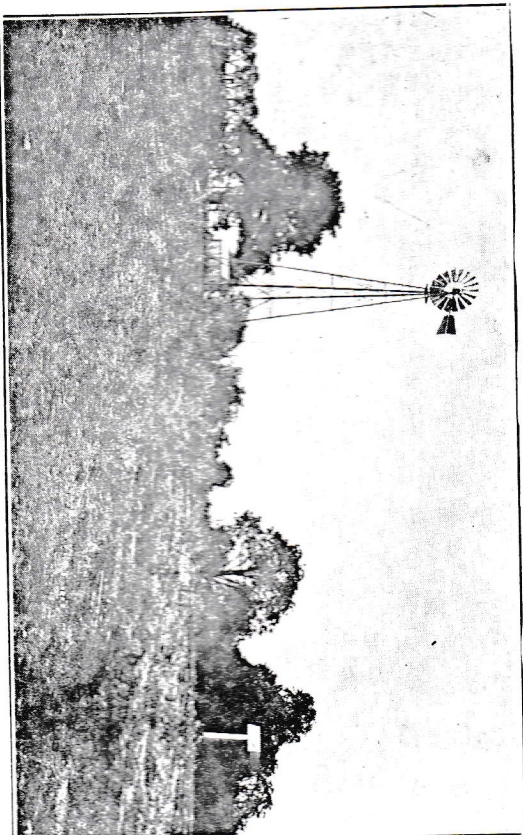
When John Hanks first settled in the county he built a log cabin in Hickory Point township. That cabin burned about 1866. Mr. Hanks' second home was a brick house. That house is still standing, and is herewith reproduced.



JOHN HANKS' HOME

*From Richmond, Mabel, Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, The Decatur Review, 1930.*

John Hanks came into the limelight by helping Abraham Lincoln split the rails for the fence for the Lincoln homestead. The rails from this fence—two of which carried the banner at the state Republican convention at the Decatur Wigwam in 1860—became known all over the world.



LINCOLN CABIN SITE (as it appears today)

James Hanks, brother of John, built his cabin about a quarter mile north of his brother. William Hanks, Jr., another brother, entered eighty acres of land west of the quarter section on which Day-tur was located. His cabin stood on the lot which is now the site of the H. I. Baldwin home, 452 West Main street. Some walnut logs from that cabin were used in the Baldwin house.

It is said that Lincoln often sprawled in the shade of the trees there when he made trips in to town. This land was sold by Mr. Hanks to William T. Crissey. There is a story to the effect that his wife would not sign the deed until she received a new dress.

William Hanks also was a ranger in Johnson's company in the Black Hawk war. He was supervisor of Road District No. 1 for several years after Macon county was formed. He died in January, 1830. William Hanks, Sr., brother of the grandmother of Lincoln, Lang Hanks, entered land in Section 22 in Harris-town township. He was a member of the grand jury in 1832. He is thought to have died about 1851 or 1852.



CHAPTER XIV  
THE FIRST CHURCHES

MACON county was more fortunate in one respect than many others of the early day counties. The early settlers as a rule were of a high class of people. Many of them were law abiding citizens of Scotch-Irish stock and brought with them to their new home their strong religious convictions. The strongest churches in the county today are monuments to the men and women who established them nearly a hundred years ago.

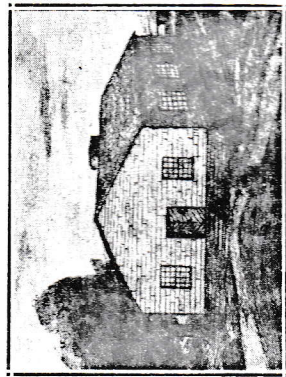
The first religious services were held in homes, as a matter of necessity. Occasionally a preacher would drop into the neighborhood and then a sermon could be heard, but more often the worship consisted of prayer, song and testimony. Services could not be held regularly because of bad roads. In summer the big events were the camp meetings.

METHODISTS ORGANIZE

In the Stevens creek settlement were a number of adherents to the Methodist faith. That fact came to the attention of Rev. Peter Cartwright, militant leader of Methodism in Illinois, who was the presiding elder of the Sangamon district. In the fall of 1829 he started the first Methodist "society" in Macon county.

The meeting for organization was held in the home of David Owen, on the west side of Stevens creek. The following persons were present: Buel Stevens and wife, Luther Stevens and wife, Dorus Stevens, Joseph Stevens, Mr. Hollenbeck, David Owen and wife, and John Frazee and wife. The new society became a part of the Salt Creek circuit, of which Rev. W. L. Deneen was named pastor.

The next year there were several additions to the society from the families of Jonathan and Isaac Miller; also Rev. Alonzo Lapham and wife, Margaret, and Dr. William T. Crissey and wife Margaret, who had come here from Edgar county. In the fall of 1831 the preaching service was moved in to Decatur.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING

Rev. William S. Crissey of Paoli Circuit, Ind., had come to Decatur in the spring of 1831 to visit his uncle, Dr. William T. Crissey, and he preached for the Methodists in Decatur and also in the Stevens Creek settlement while here. He came back in the fall of 1831 and again preached for them, after the services had been established in Decatur. Mr. Crissey moved to Decatur in 1839 to make his home here, and for years was an active church leader.

By 1834 the Methodists had decided they needed a church building and one was started, but it was not finally completed until 1839. The church stood in a dense hazel thicket on the east side of Church street, between Main and Prairie streets.

James Renshaw donated the lot for the building. The structure was of hewn oak logs, and was 38 by 40 feet in size. Slabs and benches were used for seats. There were two rows of seats, the men occupying those on one side of the building and the women those on the other side. Candles furnished the light.

In May, 1839, in a town meeting trustees for the church were elected. Following is an extract from a court record, Book 11, Page 188:

"According to previous notice the inhabitants of Decatur were convened on the 31st of May, 1839, to appoint trustees for the Methodist Episcopal church in said town, when the following persons were elected, to-wit: Buel Stevens, Luther Stevens, F. Montgomery, William Greenfield, J. M. Fordice, Daniel Stickle and A. Lapham, who shall hold the office during life, unless they move away or resign, according to the discipline of said church, which said trustees assume the name of the First Methodist Episcopal church of Decatur.

"In testimony whereof we have hereunto subscribed and set our hands and seals this 31st day of May, 1839.

- "A. Lapham J. M. Fordice
- F. Montgomery Daniel Stickle
- Luther Stevens William Greenfield."

The log building was used by this congregation until a new church was erected in 1854, at the corner of Water and Prairie streets.

BLUE MOUND SOCIETY

Another early Methodist society organized was the Blue Mound society, started probably late in 1829 or early in 1830, and also in

*In Richmond, Mabel Co., Centennial History of Decatur, Decatur and Macon County, The Decatur News, 1930*



no regular church organization at this time. The neighborhood contained only three families and often only two or three persons could attend the meetings. It was not until about eight years later that a church of this denomination was organized in Decatur.

Most of the other denominations now represented in the county started work in the '50s or later.

#### MEN OF ENDURANCE

The preachers of the early day were men of endurance. It must be said that their hearers had to be persons of endurance also, for the preacher of that day did not stop at a twenty-minute discourse. He talked as long as he had anything to say, and he usually had a good deal to say. Maybe the people needed a long sermon to last them until the next chance to hear one.

Preachers were bold and fearless in what they said. They did not mince words.

The circuit rider had to be a man of courage. Peter Cartwright was a fighter as well as leader. He met men and nature without fear, and if occasion demanded it he could fight with fists or weapons. For forty-four years he rode a circuit of 300 miles, his salary being \$80 a year "when and if he could collect it."

It took men like Peter Cartwright and his contemporaries to make the church what it was in those days, an influence that has lasted down to the present day.

<sup>1</sup> The old Methodist first church building was used for years as a carpenter and wagon making shop after the new building was erected. In 1862 it was rented to the Hospital Aid society and one time about forty refugees from the south were housed in it for several months.

<sup>2</sup> The old Christian church building on Wood street was used afterwards by Samuel Powers as a breeding stable for fine horses.

<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Sue T. Odor, daughter of John W. Tyler, had the honor of having the record in years of membership in the Christian church in Decatur. She united with the church in 1856 and continued active until her death in 1930.

## CHAPTER XV

### FIRST PHYSICIANS

**R**IDING over prairies in the murky darkness, up hills and down hollows, through mud in which his horse often became mired, the howling of wolves the only sound to be heard, no signs of human habitation for miles and miles—the physician of the early day was a man not to be envied. Often his only reward was the knowledge that he had brought relief to the suffering child, or eased the pain of its elder.

Those first physicians in Macon county had wide territories to cover, and many are the tales that could be related of their hardships. It was nothing unusual to be called twenty or thirty miles to see a patient. There was no automobile to whiz him there in a few moments. It meant a long, weary horseback ride before he could reach his destination. When he left his home he never knew when he would be back. He might be stopped often along the way, and it might be days before he could return to his own fireside.

#### FIRST DOCTOR

According to records, Dr. William T. Crissey was the first doctor to settle in Macon county. He came here from Edgar county, Ill., in 1829 or 1830. Dr. Crissey was a member of the first board of trustees of the town of Decatur, elected in 1836, and served again in that office in 1839. In the spring of 1831 Dr. Crissey was visited by his nephew, Rev. William S. Crissey, of Indiana, who later settled here also and became a leader in Methodist church activities.

#### DR. JOHN G. SPEER

Dr. John Grove Speer, another of Decatur's first physicians, was the first man to open a drug store in the town. He had come to Illinois from Kentucky in 1831. It was while he and his wife were making the journey to Macon county that their first child was born, in October, 1831, at the home of Nathaniel Wayne, on the Little Ann-braw river.

Dr. Speer was born in Burke county, N. C., Feb. 12, 1809, the same day Abraham Lincoln came into the world. His family moved to Old-



DR. JOHN G. SPEER

*From Richmond, Mabel C., Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, Decatur Review, 1930, p. 89.*



ships and difficulties to meet in those early days, and many obstacles to overcome, but with determined effort and willing, honest hands he worked his way slowly but steadily upward to success, and now in his declining years he can look back over the days that were spent in hard toil and see that by his industry and steadfastness of purpose he has won for himself and family a comfortable competence, which in his declining years will enable him to live a retired life. He can look out over beautiful fields of waving grain, comprising four hundred acres of rich farming land, and know it is his own. He may well be proud of the success that has attended his efforts, for in all his dealings he has followed an honorable and upright course, and his example is well worthy of emulation. It should also serve to encourage others who like himself have to start out in life with nothing to depend on but their own exertions. Success is not the result of talent and genius, it is the reward of labor. In his political affiliations, Mr. Brelsford is a Democrat, but has never been an aspirant for public office. In the community where he resides he has the confidence and high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

to Tennessee, from where he went to Indiana in 1828, making the journey by team. He located in Johnson County, becoming one of its pioneer settlers. From the Government he secured a tract of land and there engaged in farming until his removal to St. Clair County, Ill., where his death occurred in May, 1847. By occupation he was a farmer, and followed that pursuit throughout his entire life. He held membership with the Presbyterian Church, and in politics was a Democrat. While in Indiana in an early day he served as County Judge. The mother of our subject, who also belonged to the Presbyterian Church, after her husband's death went to Decatur, where she died in November, 1868.

The Alexander family numbered ten children, but the four eldest, Mary, Eliza, Thomas K. and Tilghman H., are now deceased. John H. is living a retired life in California; Emily has also passed away; James is the next younger; Addison J. and William G. are also deceased; and Isabella completes the family.

We now take up the personal history of our subject, who is widely known in Macon County. During his boyhood, he attended school for about three months during the year in a log school-house and even this meagre privilege was no longer afforded him after he had completed his fifteenth year. His father died when he was seventeen years of age, and he then aided in the care of the home farm, remaining with his mother until he was a young man of twenty-three. He continued to make his home in St. Clair County until April, 1854, when he cast in his lot with the early settlers of Macon County. He located upon the farm in Whitmore Township which has since been his home, and which now comprises four hundred and ninety-two acres of land. For years he engaged in its cultivation, and from time to time he erected good buildings and made other substantial improvements upon the place, all of which are monuments to his handiwork.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey, Mr. Alexander chose Miss Sarah A. Griffen, a native of Illinois, and a daughter of Joseph and Mrs. Mary Foulke (Shepherd) Griffen. The marriage ceremony was performed October 17, 1860, and by

Brother of Tilghman H. Alexander,  
first  
owner  
of the  
house  
at  
351 St.  
William

JAMES H. ALEXANDER, one of the early settlers of Macon County, has resided upon his present farm on section 31, Whitmore Township, for almost forty years, or during his entire residence in this community. In the days which have come and gone since he located in this community, he has aided in the development of the county, and has borne his part in its upbuilding and progress; hence his name deserves enrollment with the honored pioneers.

Mr. Alexander was born near Franklin, in Johnson County, Ind., on the 29th of October, 1831, and is a son of James R. and Rebecca (Gay) Alexander. His father was a native of North Carolina and was of Irish descent. He was born in 1797, and when quite young removed with his parents

Lake City Publishing Co., Portrait and Biographical Record of Macon County, Illinois, Chicago, 1893

James H.  
Alexander



their union have been born three children: Joseph, a musician, who is now traveling with the Andrews Opera Company; Edgar, a business man of Decatur; and Ottie, wife of William Hayes, who with her husband resides on the old homestead with our subject, and he operates the farm. The mother of this family was called to the home beyond January 15, 1893, and her remains were interred in the Decatur Cemetery. Mr. Alexander is now living a retired life, resting in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former labor. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the Republican party, with which he has affiliated since its organization.



**M**MUELLER, is one of Decatur's most prominent and enterprising men. He is at the head of three large industries, and by his business interests he has materially aided in the prosperity and upbuilding of his adopted country. The record of his life is as follows: He was born in the year 1832, in the city of Wertheim, on the Main, in the Grand Duchy of Baden. His education was begun in the common public schools, and on mastering the studies there he attended the gymnasium, or High School. When a youth of fourteen he began learning the locksmith's trade, and after following that business for two years he spent the two succeeding years in learning the machinist's trade in the city of Manheim, Grand Duchy of Baden. From there he went to another machine shop under instruction.

When he was twenty years of age, Mr. Mueller traveled in Germany (as all mechanics must do under the law of the land), through the Netherlands and Rhinelands, going as far as Rotterdam. Not finding the employment he wished, he determined to seek a home and fortune in America, and, carrying out this resolution, crossed the Atlantic and landed in Chicago in 1851. He had no capital, and being entirely dependent upon his own exertions at once began the search for work.

He secured employment in a machine shop in that city and there remained for four years, after which he went to Freeport, Ill., to establish business for himself as a gunsmith. Two years were there passed, and the year 1857 witnessed his arrival in Decatur, where he again embarked in the gunsmith business.

Attracted by the discovery of gold at Pike's Peak, Mr. Mueller journeyed Westward in 1859, but after a year returned to Decatur and worked at the gunsmithing trade until 1872 when, in connection with that enterprise, he began the manufacture of water-work supplies, such as water-tapping machines and brass goods, and also established a plumbing and heating department. At this time in one house were combined the three enterprises—the manufacture of water-work supplies, plumbing and heating and gun departments, but soon it was found necessary to move the gun department into a separate building. This was done in 1885, and in 1888 the plumbing and heating department was also moved into a separate building. All three businesses are incorporated as separate and independent concerns, and Mr. Mueller is President of each. He manufactures everything in the line of water-work supplies and in first-class style does all kinds of work connected with heating, plumbing and gunsmithing. Mr. Mueller is a man of unbounded enterprise, of fertile resources, possesses great perseverance and industry, and as the result of his own unaided efforts he has achieved the success which places him in the foremost rank among the business men of this thriving city.



**L**EMUEL WIKOFF has been a resident of Illinois since 1851, and has long been identified with the agricultural interests of Macon County, but is now living a retired life in Marea. He was born in Butler County, Ohio, January 13, 1834. The family is of German origin, and the grandfather of our subject, a New

*Lake City Publishing Co., Portrait and Biographical Record of Macon County, Illinois, Chicago, 1893*



Wheatland, and shipped from there the first shelled corn sent out of the county. The name of the place was changed to Elwin when it was found there already was a Wheatland in Illinois.

Decatur men were fond of their cigars and Joseph Michl began making them in 1858 to supply their needs. His name is still represented in Joseph Michl's Sons.

James B. Shoaff started the newspaper business in Decatur in 1851 when he established the Shoaff's Weekly Gazette. In 1855 Ustrey and Wingate began publishing the Chronicle. The Democrat, Herald and Magnet were other newspapers started a little later.

The fair grounds, which later became Fairview park, were laid out in 1857. State and county fairs were held there.

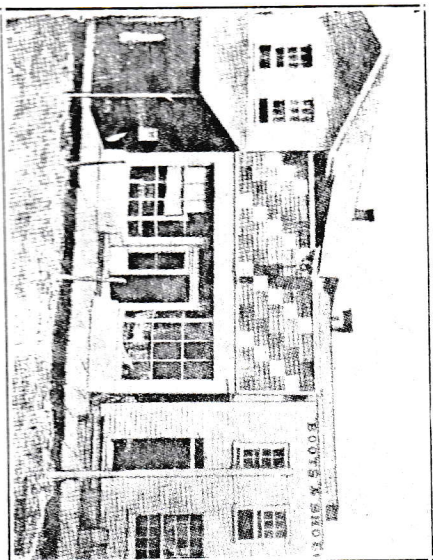
Substantial brick business buildings began to appear during this period in Decatur. One of the first was the block on East Main street, south side of the 100 block, which was erected by William Powers in 1856. They were three stories in height, and Decatur was quite proud of them. Mr. Powers also erected a building at the southeast corner of East Main and Water streets in 1856, and James Milhkin put up one across the street in 1858.

Among other prominent citizens who came to Decatur during this decade and who afterwards were identified with the business life and history of the city were Franklin Priest, Charles Lanx, John K. Warren, D. S. Spallharger, John Ullrich, George S. Durfee, E. A. Jones, E. McNabb, Martin P. Murphy, John Imboden, William L. Hamner, E. L. Burrows, Dr. J. B. T. Stapp and G. W. Bright.

Frederick Mattes arrived and was soon in the business of making brick. His family is still in that business.

Among the physicians who came were Dr. W. A. Barnes, father of the late Dr. William Barnes; Dr. F. W. Moore, Dr. Samuel McBride, and Dr. W. J. Chenoweth.

One man who



SCENE ON EAST MAIN IN THE '50s  
Site now occupied by the Milhkin block.

afterwards became famous as an inventor came. That was W. H. Bramble, inventor of a cultivator, grain scale, Yale lock, postoffice lock box, and other articles. Mr. Bramble invented many different kinds of locks.

#### SOCIETY

We begin reading of Decatur "society" in the '50s. The influx of well-to-do and cultured people from the east added much to the social atmosphere of the city. Balls, parties, entertainments, made the town gay. Amateur performances of histrionic and musical nature were popular, according to Mrs. Jane M. Johns.

The anxious young suitor of the day serenaded his lady love beneath her window in true romantic fashion. It usually took an entire group to do the serenading, however, and one bunch in particular took along a melodeon to add to the harmony. This "glee club" was composed of George Wessels, Bob McCabe, Theodore Hildebrandt, Frank Hays and Will Martin. Wessels, noted as a singer, was the leader of the crowd. Other prominent young men of the period were Charles Tuttle, Sheridan Wait, Richard J. Oglesby, J. Y. Braden, W. H. Ennis, William T. Wells and Charles P. Thatcher. Dick Oglesby was becoming popular as a speaker, especially after his tour abroad. William Ennis became one of the county's most extensive land owners, acquiring thousands of acres. He married Miss Lottie Harrison, one of the popular young women of the time.

A big social event of the '50s was a masked ball in 1855 for the benefit of the poor. It was held in The Revere house. The profits went to the destitute widow of one of the railroad workmen.

#### TURNVEREIN

The Decatur Turnverein, organized Feb. 28, 1858, was an active athletic and social organization, which furnished for many years. John Ruhl was the first president. In 1887 the organization bought Turner park on South Broadway, and about 1889 erected a building there. By 1894 the society had 200 members and property worth from \$16,000 to \$20,000. It promoted athletics, principally fencing, boxing, wrestling, etc., and won honors in tournaments, including the national meet at Milwaukee in 1893. The Turnverein went out of existence soon after 1910.

The property of this society is now the Girls' Welfare home.

#### CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Greenwood cemetery association was organized March 27, 1857, by electing William Martin, Sr., president, Nathan W. Pupper, treasurer, John Ricketts, David L. Allen and Daniel C. Lockwood

*Born Edmund, Model S., Centennial  
History of Decatur and Macon Counties, the  
Decatur Review, 1930*



cattle long distances to find water. Pastures dried up. Great losses were suffered by the farmers.

The drought was felt all over the state.

That was the year of the Revere hotel fire, which had such an effect on the business section of Decatur.

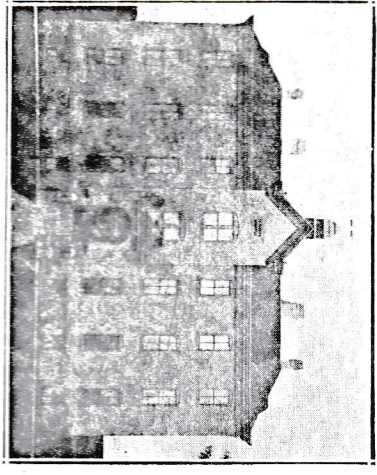
The Daily Republican, a leading newspaper in Decatur for years, was started April 1, 1872, with B. K. Hamsher and J. R. Mosser as publishers.\* The Decatur Local Review, a new weekly paper published by A. Wuench, made its first appearance March 4, 1873. It was the beginning of the present day Review.

In November, 1870, Macon county's new court room in the Powers building was formally opened. The old brick court house was sold to Martin Forstmeier for \$885. It was torn down during the winter of 1870.

In 1870 came the Rolling mill. In that year the waterworks plant was built. The fire department was organized in 1872. The county farm was established and the main building erected in 1873. This building burned in 1882, several inmates losing their lives.

In 1876 the first street car service was started. Smith's Opera house was formally opened to the public in September, 1870. People were delighted with it. The motto of the stage was, "Dedicated to Free Speech". Katie Patnam was the leading lady in the play, "From Front", which was the attraction on the opening night.

The Decatur public library was organized in 1875. St. Mary's hospital was started in 1878 in a frame house, and the next year a brick building was erected.



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, FIRST BUILDING

*St. Mary's Hospital, 1930*

In 1877 the Y. M. C. A. was organized.

This was the period when the Haworth check rower factory was building up fortunes for its owners. The check rower was the invention of George D. Haworth in 1869, and that fall he formed a partnership with his father, Mahlon, and brothers, L. L. and J. W. Haworth for its manufacture.

Mr. Haworth had previously invented corn planters and had manufactured them in Mechanicsburg. He moved his business to Decatur in 1861.

Demand for the check rower increased every year until it became so great it was impossible to keep the orders filled. When the business was at its height more than 16,000 were made in a year.

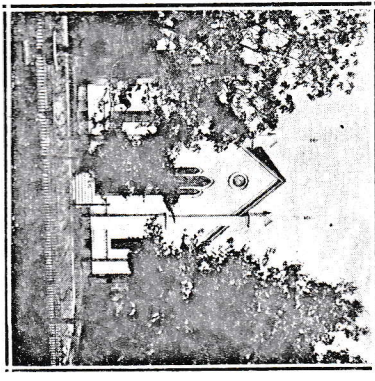
For a number of years the Haworth factory was the leading manufacturing business of Decatur and the Haworth homes were the centers for social and literary groups. G. D. Haworth lived on East Eldorado street, the house now St. Patrick's rectory. J. W. Haworth's home was on North Jackson at Eldorado and L. L. Haworth's home was at Edward and William streets. (Breast Day (Feb 21st) 1926)

The factory continued making money until the patents expired and corn planter manufacturers began making their own check rowers.

Several churches were erected in the '70s. The United Brethren church built a house of worship at the corner of Broadway and Eldorado.

The Christian church tore down its building at Main and North streets and erected a new one on the site under the leadership of Rev. N. S. Haynes. This building was moved in 1893 to Edward and William streets. The accompanying picture was taken after it was removed to the new site.

The Baptist church bought the lot at the southeast corner of Water and North streets and put up a building costing about \$12,000. It was dedicated April 23, 1876.



EDWARD ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
Photo by J. E. Perkins

German Catholics in 1877 organized a church, which was named St. James' church. Later a house of worship and school were erected on East Clay street.

Ursuline Sisters came from Atlanta and in 1873 opened St. Teresa's academy. Boring for coal started in 1874 by the Western Coal company on a plot of ground north of the Walsh round house. The effort was abandoned when a depth of 50 feet had been reached without results. Decatur citizens however, believed

*Edward St. Christian Church, The Decatur German Catholics (New City)*  
*\* S. S. Shaworth - father of Annie Shaworth (New City)*  
*Mahlon Shaworth - grandfather of "*



~~have no hesitancy whatever in saying that the Decatur Bagging factory is now one of our most important manufacturing institutions, and one of which Macon county ought to be proud, and is destined to be of far greater importance to us.~~

~~It asks no bonus or support from us other than what is to the interest and profit of our people to give, in the way of material furnished, for which a market is made. Its owners are our own citizens and of us and expect to remain with us.~~

HAWORTH & SONS.

"To save time is to lengthen life."

Is an old saying, and as true as it is old. The object sought to be obtained in almost all of our modern inventions is time and labor. So with Haworth's Check-Rower. Its main object is to save the time and labor of the farmer in the corn-planting season, when every minute of time saved is almost as precious as minutes of gold. When he is ready for planting his corn, every hour lost is a proportionate loss in bushels at the ensuing autumn. The check-rower is the invention of George D. Haworth, one of the members of the firm, and was completed and a patent obtained therefor in the year 1869. Valuable improvements have been added to it from time to time since as experience has dictated, so that farmers who understand and have had the use of this machine attach to it a value next in importance to the corn-planter itself. Upon level western prairies, where the soil is such that the weeds grow as rapidly as the corn, and sprout and commence growing as soon as the ground is broken up, it is found very desirable that the corn should be planted in rows each way, and planted as soon as possible after the soil is turned over, so that the corn will have an equal chance with the weeds and grass. Without the use of the check-rower it is necessary that the entire piece of land, ten or twenty acres as the case may be, shall be broken up, then it must be marked off with a marker so as to make the cross rows, by which it is found that by the time the entire piece of land is broken up and crossed off the weeds are beginning to show themselves above ground in the part first plowed. But with the check-rower this difficulty is obviated, and that too, even if the farmer has but one team to use.

But it is useless to dilate upon the merits of this machine; as such it is an invention of the county, and of which the people will yet

*From Smith, John H., Esq., of the Macon County  
Bar, History of Macon County, Illinois, 1876*



more thoroughly appreciate. The firm engaged in the manufacture of this implement are M. Haworth, L. L. Haworth, J. W. Haworth, and George D. Haworth—father and sons. They were formerly from Clinton county, Ohio, and removed to Illinois in 1852, and to Macon county in 1857. They are all men of energy and thorough business qualifications. They took hold of this invention a few years since, and by industry and perseverance have overcome the natural prejudice existing among the people against all new inventions; so that now increasing demands are coming from Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Texas, for it.

During the past year the original shops, machinery and facilities for manufacture, have been increased to more than four times their original capacity. The value of the real estate, shops, machinery, warehouses, of the firm does not probably vary far from \$150,000. Thirty-five men are employed by the firm. One feature connected with the manufacture of the check-rower is that every part of the machine is made here in the shops, so that there is but a very small outlay of money by the firm that Macon county does not receive the benefit of. The value of the manufactures of this firm for the year 1876 will not vary far from \$200,000.

## ROBERTS, LYTLE &amp; CO.

~~This firm has been in business but three years, and is composed of the following named gentlemen: T. T. Roberts, R. P. Lytle and O. Z. Green. While the articles manufactured by this firm, viz: wooden burial cases and caskets, are not pleasant to contemplate, and never purchased except when painful necessity requires, yet in these pre-cremation days the demands therefor is steady and constant, and unaffected by the fluctuating influences operating upon other articles of manufacture. \$40,000 worth of burial cases are annually manufactured by this firm, and shipped throughout Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and other States. The lumber used is obtained from southern Illinois, Michigan and Tennessee. Twenty men are employed by the firm the year round.~~

~~The members of this firm are all young men of energy and business qualifications, and their growing business will soon create a demand for much larger works and a greater investment of capital. Their present grounds, buildings and machinery cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000.~~

*From Smith, John H., Esq., of the Macon County Bar,  
History of Macon County, Illinois, 1876*



FOR HANDKERCHIEFS, BOOK MARKS, HAT BANDS, AND BANNERS.  
129 EAST MAIN  
DEN CHAMBERLAIN.

Hathaway Edward E, mach Wabash Shops, res 317  
W Eldorado.

1893

Hathaway Eldridge A, mach Wabash Shops, res 317 W  
Eldorado.

City Directory

Hathaway George W, res 317 W Eldorado.

Hauser Frank B, clk Scott & Jones, rms 29 Fenton blk.

Hauss George, barber W C H Ermentraut, res 845 W  
Main.

Haven Nellie Miss, student, rms 1202 N Main.

Hawes Anna M (wid Mark D), res 1120 N Edward.

Hawes Lottie E Miss, res 1120 N Edward.

Hawes Paul T, student, res 1120 N Edward.

Hawker H Mary Mrs, dressmkr, res 215 N Main.

Hawkes Clara N Miss, teacher Church St School, res 300  
N Water.

Hawkes Jane I (wid David B), res 946 W Macon.

Hawkins Bennie, miner, res 820 N Calhoun.

Hawkins Ella Mrs (col'd) res 437 E Edmond.

Hawkins George T, lab Wabash Freight House, res rear  
541 E Condit.

Hawkins Hattie Miss, rms 320 E Bradford.

Hawkins John H (col'd), porter, res 651 E Wood.

Hawkins Mary (col'd, wid John), res 651 E Wood.

Hawkins Minnie Miss (col'd), res 651 E Wood.

Hawkins Solomon, driver Nelson Morris & Co, res 539 E  
Eldorado.

Hawkins Wm, miner, res 820 N Calhoun.

Hawks Wm B, fireman Wabash R R, rms 1052 E Eldo-  
rado.

Hawley Clinton, carp, res w s Union 4 n of P D & E R R.

**HAWLEY WESLEY E**, Saloon, 642 E Eldorado,  
rms same.

Haworth George G (Haworth & Sons), bds 351 W Wil-  
liam.

Haworth Ida May Miss, res 731 W Main.

Haworth Mahlon (Haworth & Sons), res 351 W William.

Haworth Mary (wid James W), res 457 N Jackson.

**HAWORTH & SONS** (George D and Mahlon  
Haworth), Check Rower and Haworth Planting  
Machinery Manufacturers, 603 N Morgan.

ROCK WALL PLASTER IS THE BEST



Brown Thomas R, res 1273 N Main.  
 Brown Wm, pressman Review, bds 337 N Main.  
 Brown Wm A, tinner Morehouse, Wells & Co, res  
 579 S Broadway.  
 Brown Wm J, clk A J Stoner, res 327 S Main.  
 Brown Wm M, engineer Wabash R R, res 1078 E  
 Eldorado.  
 Brown Wm M jr, clk A O Brewer, res 1078 E Eldor-  
 ado.  
 Brown Wm W, tinner Morehouse, Wells & Co, res  
 579 S Broadway.  
 Brown Winfield S, carp, res 1120 E Prairie.  
 Browning Flora Miss, res 331 E Bradford.  
 Brownlee Jennie Miss, res 546 Spring Ave.

**BROWNLEE REUBEN**, Real Estate Agent, over  
 117 E Main, res 546 Spring Ave.

Browoski Karl, lab, res 1129 N Calhoun.

Brueck Peter H, secy and manager City Coal Co, 232  
 W Main, res 364 W William.

*Husband of  
 Annie Elizabeth Brueck  
 daughter of Frederick's*

Brummell A L (col'd), cook St Nicholas, rms 126 N  
 Merchant.

Brummell George F (col'd), cook Central Hotel, res  
 466 W Cerro Gordo.

Brummell James W (col'd), cook St Nicholas, res 628  
 N Church.

Brummell Thomas W (col'd), cook St Nicholas, rms  
 126 N Merchant.

Brunner Daniel, carp Wabash shops, res 1416 E Mari-  
 etta.

Brunson Thompson L, engineer, res 1344 E William.  
 Bruse Minnie Miss, res 533 N Morgan.

Brush Alonzo L, shaper Decatur Coffin Co, res 818  
 N Jasper.

Brush Wm O, mach Mueller Mfg Co, res 818 N  
 Jasper.

Bryan Charles J, clk J Irwin, res 605 N Church.

J. R. RACHE & CO.

Merchant Tailoring

Want of INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE OR LOANS,  
 Call on W. A. SMITH, 100 W. Wabash St. Ullrich's New Block.

**CHEAP CHARLEY** THE ONE-PRICE CLOTHIER



PIPER, The Photographer, 256 N. Main

525 E Main.

1887 City Directory

Hathaway Charles B, mach, res 1256 E North.

Hathaway George W, foreman Wabash shops, res 940 E North.

Hathaway Harry A, bar tender M McGinty, rms over 217 N Water.

Hauck Anna Miss, domestic 252 N Franklin.

Havrety Julia A (wid Daniel), res 356 W Eldorado.

Hawkins Benjamin, miner, res 818 E Sangamon.

Hawkins C Anna Miss (col'd), res 360 E Decatur.

Hawkins Junius (col'd), lab, res 360 E Decatur.

Hawkins Mary Mrs (col'd), res 360 E Decatur.

Hawkins Thomas T, res 826 N Union.

Hawkins Wm, miner, res 818 E Sangamon.

Hawks David B, res 262 W Main.

Haworth George D (Haworth & Sons), res 407 E Eldorado.

Haworth Ida M Miss, res 731 W Main.

Haworth James W (Haworth & Sons and Powers & Haworth), prest Decatur Iron Felloe Wagon Co, 668 N Broadway, res 457 N Jackson.

Haworth Lysander L, prest City Coal Co, 232 W Main, res 364 W William.

Haworth Mahlon (Haworth & Sons), res 351 W William.

Haworth Wm E, secy and treas Decatur Iron Felloe Wagon Co, 668 N Broadway, res 457 N Jackson.

Haworth Wm M, student, res 364 W William.

Haworth & Sons (George D, James W and Mahlon Haworth), check rower mnfrs, 603 N Morgan.

Haws Ida M Miss, res 154 E Main.

**HAWS JOHN H**, Photographer, 154 E Main, res same.

Hayden Annie Miss, res 1113 N Main.

Hayden John R, clk I C freight depot, res 501 E Marietta.

BE FOR THE DAILY REPUBLICAN.

Imboden Bros.' Meat Market,

Established 1855.  
162 S. MAIN ST.