

Register of Old Buildings
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 1520 N. 31st St.

Legal description:

N. 50 ft. of Lot 5

S. 50 ft. of Lot 6

Camp and Emrich's Addition

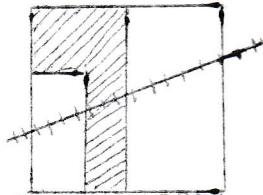
*Demolished
Spring, 1976.*

Date of original construction: 1840's, probably between 1843 and 1848.

Name of original owner: Jacob Spangler

History:

1. In October, 1840, Jacob Spangler purchased a farm from Eli Blankenship who is the first owner of this property recorded in the Macon County Recorder of Deeds Office. An Atlas of Macon County and the State of Illinois, Warner and Beers, Publishers, Chicago, 1874, describes the farm as of that date as T16 North Range 3 East Section 7, 240 acres, Jacob Spangler, owner, with the Toledo, Wabash and Western R. R. running across the acreage. A 1903 plat shows J. R. Race as owner of 438.84 acres including most of what had been the 240 Spangler acres.



Benjamin Dill foreclosed in 1875.

In 1875 Jacob Spangler deeded the part north of the railroad to Benjamin Dill.

Dill deeded that portion in 1884 to John R. Race.

There seems to be a gap in the record, 1915-1923.

Francis M. Camp bought the house sometime in this period.

In 1923 Clarence Burris bought it from Camp.

In 1925 Marshall A. Russow from Burris.

In 1925 Chicago Title and Trust from Russow.

In December, 1926, A. E. Staley Mfg. Co. from Chicago Title and Trust.

In December, 1927, Polly E. Ragsdale and Elbert Ragsdale bought from the A. E. Staley Mfg. Co., 1520 N. 31st St.

Lot 5 Camp and Emrich's Addition.

Present owner: The Estate of Polly Ragsdale.
Dora Ragsdale, occupant.

History Continued:

2. Jacob Spangler, the original owner of the house, was born July 10, 1814 in York County, Pa. He came to Macon County in 1835. On his return trip to Pennsylvania, he persuaded his father, Joseph Spangler, to come to Illinois. This he did, bringing with him his wife, Barbara Bentzly Spangler, and eight of their nine children.
3. 1835 - Jacob Spangler left York County, Pennsylvania and headed for the northwest territory, but entered land in Illinois, and induced his father, Joseph, R., to follow him to Macon County.
See clippings, Decatur Review.

E. T. Coleman column - April 6, 1924.

E. B. Hitchcock column - January 18, 1924.

- 1836 - During this "year of the big freeze" Jacob and Joseph Spangler, Sr., took up 440 acres near the river in sections 15, 21, 22 and 24.

Louise Gantz Likins column August 6th & 7th, 1929

- 1838 - E. O. Smith, prominent builder, helped Jacob and Joseph Spangler build the Spangler mill, winter of 1838.

Otto R. Kyle column - Sept. 14, 1969 Review.

- 1840 - Jacob Spangler bought a farm that included what is now 1520 N. 31st St.

- 1841 - Decatur's first secret society, Macon Lodge No. 8, A.F. and A.M. had its first meeting, July 1, 1841, in a house rented from Jacob Spangler. He had built the house in anticipation of being married, but his bride-to-be died just before the wedding. It was a two-story frame house on the north side of East Wood Street, the second house west of Franklin.

Decatur Review, July 18, 1929.

- 1843 - Jacob Spangler and Letticia Hall of Macon County were married February 23, 1843, and two sons were later born to them:

Jacob Spangler, Jr., who in young manhood moved to Sherman, Texas.

James Spangler, who died a bachelor on June 1, 1878 in Decatur.

- 1846 - Letticia Hall Spangler died March 13, 1846.

- 1848 - The Reverend D. L. Bunn, pastor of the Universalist Church, married Jacob Spangler and Miss Ellen Walton on January 13, 1848.

- Macon County Genealogical Society records.

On October 24, 1848, their eldest son, William ("Pat") Spangler was born in the house now listed as 1520 N. 31st. Jacob Spangler had owned this land since 1840 and it is possible that the house was built as early as 1843, but it dates at least to 1848. See sketch of the house from Atlas of Macon County, Illinois, Warner and Beers, attached. North 31st St. runs at right angles to the railroad (north-south) at about the point where the horseback rider is shown in the sketch.

*Jacob Spangler
owned the land
from this date.*

*He never lived
in this house, see
sketch of it that
follows.*

*I believe
Jacob Spangler
took his new
wife to the house
presently being
occupied.*

*I know Jacob
Spangler was
living at 1520
N. 31st at this
time.*

History Continued:

3. 1848 - the door on the left (west) is the front door. The door on the south does not exist.

In this house the following children were born to Jacob and Ellen Walton Spangler:

*I know that
all of these children
were born in the
house being described.
C. Meyer*

- 1848 - William (Pat).
1849 - Eliza (Emerson, Dailey) - California.
1851 - Anna B. (Vermillion, Long) - Decatur.
1852 - Margaret (Rhodes) - Macon County.
1853 - Emma (died in infancy).
1854 - Frank (died in infancy).
1855 - Susan (Renshaw) - Texas.
1856 - Lula (Laver) - Chicago.

- 1861 - February 11, 1861 the train carrying Lincoln to Washington D. C. from Springfield for his inauguration traveled on the T.P.&W. R.R. tracks (Toledo, Wabash and Western Railroad) which are shown on the sketch from the 1874 Atlas. For Pat Spangler's experiences that day see:
E. T. Coleman column, Review, April 5, 1924.

- 1861 - October 4, 1861, Ellen Walton Spangler died.
(Tombstone - Spangler Cemetery)

- 1862 - February 17, 1862 Joseph Spangler, Sr., father of Jacob Spangler and grandfather of Pat, died in a Spangler Mill accident.

See Mrs. L. N. Lindsey's column, Review, 12/18/29.

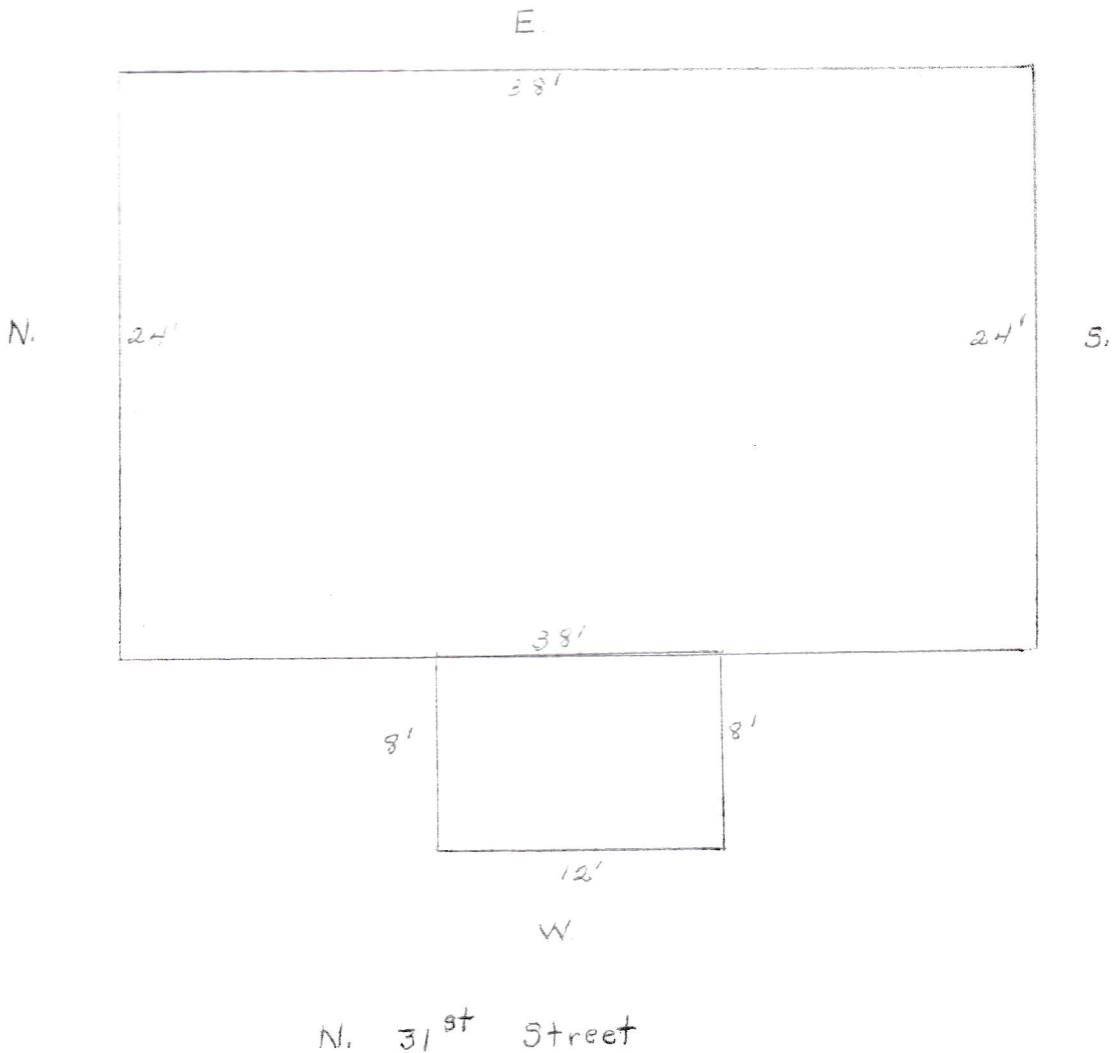
Also, see copy of funeral notice. A discrepancy exists. If it were Joseph Spangler, Sr. who was killed in the mill accident (and not Joseph Spangler, Jr., who had taken over the operation of the mill a few years after it was built, while Joseph, Sr. turned to farming), the body was not transferred directly to Spangler Cemetery, but rather to the home on what is now the south side of East Wood St., on a hill east of the Johns Hill. The Johns farm extended from S. Maffit to S. Jasper. The Spangler farm where Joseph's widow, Elizabeth Zorger, lived until her death in 1906 and where their bachelor son, Frank, lived until his death in 1919, probably extended from the 1200 block E. Wood (Jasper) to what became 22nd Street. After Frank Spangler's death part of the land was subdivided to become the Terrace Garden Addition.

- 1870 - April 16, 1870 - William (Pat) Spangler attended Judge Emerson's funeral in North Fork cemetery. For his account of Richard Oglesby's participation in it, see -
Mrs. L. N. Lindsey's column, December 18, 1929.

History Continued:

3. 1886 - Jacob Spangler died having lost all but 60 acres of his land, this in Whitmore Township.
E. B. Hitchcock column, Review, January 18, 1924.
4. The following data pertaining to the house at 1530 N. 31st is from the office of the Macon County Assessor: (August, 1974)

Family dwelling.
Wood frame.
2 stories.
8 rooms.
Wood with asbestos siding over it.
Gable roof, low pitch.
Open porch, enclosed and finished, 8 x 12 slab.
Basement - small dugout.
Fine floors.
No attic.
Warm air furnace, coal stoker.
Poor physical condition.



In June, 1836, permission was granted to Jacob Spangler and his father, Joseph Spangler, Sr., to build a mill. The following is a quotation from original sources: "On motion of Joseph Spangler who is desirous of building a water, saw and grist mill on the north fork of the Sangamon River in Macon County and on the East 1/2 of the Southeast 1/4 of Sec. 8, T. 16N, R3E. It appearing to the satisfaction of the court that the said Joseph Spangler has the fee simple property in the land on both sides the said stream and the bed thereof at the place he assigns erecting said mill. A writ of ad quod damnum is awarded to the said Joseph Spangler directed to the sheriff commanding him to summon twelve good and lawful men of his county to meet upon the premises on Wednesday the 22 inst. and condemn the same according to law and report to this court at the next term. June special term of the Macon County Commissioners Court, 1836. The commissioners signing this order are Benjamin Wilson and James A. Piatt."

From Mrs. L. N. Lindsey's History
of Long Creek Township, 1929.

CHAPTER XXXIV

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE first fraternal order in Decatur was the Masonic, which began with the institution of Macon lodge, No. 8, A. F. and A. M., July 17, 1841. It was the first lodge to be started under the jurisdiction of the present Grand Lodge of Illinois, though it was the eighth to receive its charter.

The charter members were:

George A. Patterson, Worshipful Master; Joseph King, Senior Warden; William Lefforge, Junior Warden; Henry Prather, Secretary and treasurer; Elijah League, Senior Deacon; Leonard Ashton, Junior Deacon; James Ashton, Steward and Tyler.

Master Masons—Warner W. Oglesby, Henry Hummell, and Joel Seth Post.

Entered apprentices—John P. Timbrook and Andrew S. Williams.

The lodge met at first in a two-story frame house on the north side of the 100 block East Wood street. This house had been built by Jacob Spangler as a home for himself and his bride, but just before the time set for the wedding the young woman died. Mr. Spangler then rented the house.

In 1842 the Masons were discussing the matter of a meeting place. At the same time Decatur citizens were proposing to build a school house. The Masons were asked to join in the move, building an upper story to the school house to use as a lodge room. This plan was carried out. The cornerstone for the new building was laid June 24, 1842. The building stood at Water and North Park streets, facing south.

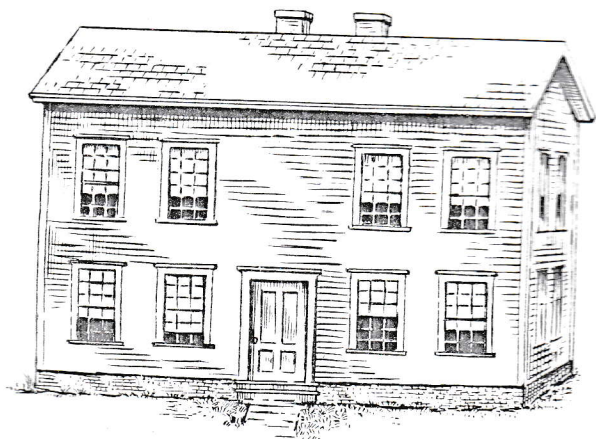
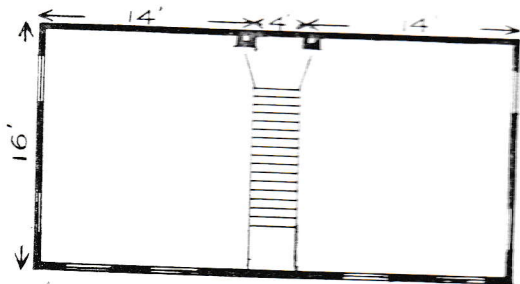
Masonic bodies increased in number in the fifties. Macon chapter, No. 21, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered Sept. 29, 1854, with nine charter members. They were: D. P. Bunn, W. H. Ennis, J. R. Gorin, Josiah Hunt, Warner W. Oglesby, Henry Prather, J. J. Peddeward, J. C. Weaver, Joseph King.

Beaumanior Commandery No. 9, first called Centre Encampment, U. D. (under dispensation), and then called Central Encampment, had its beginning July 22, 1856.



FIRST MASONIC HOME

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



House on East Wood Street Where Macon Lodge, U. D., Held Its
First Meeting, July 17, 1841, with floor plan of second floor.



*From History of Macon Lodge No. 8 A. F. and A. M.,
Sicatur Review Printing and Engraving, 1916,
page 25*

*House built for
Jacob Spangler,
Rented by him
to the Masonic
Lodge where his
bride-to-be died.*

Although the Charter of Friendship Lodge was granted ahead of the Charter of Macon Lodge, that of Macon Lodge was issued ahead of the Charter of Friendship Lodge. The Charter of Macon Lodge No. 8 bears date October 5, 1841; while the Charter of Friendship Lodge at Dixon bears date October 6, 1841, and was made out as Friendship Lodge No. 8 and later changed to 7.

CHARTER MEMBERS

When Macon Lodge received its Charter, it was composed as follows:

George A. Patterson, W. M.; Joseph King, S. W.; William Laforge, J. W.; Henry Prather, Treas. and Sec.; Elijah League, S. D.; Leonard Ashton, J. D.; James Ashton, Steward and Tyler.

MASTER MASONS

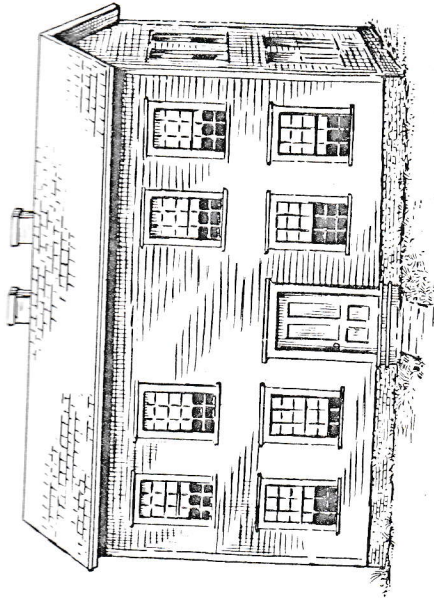
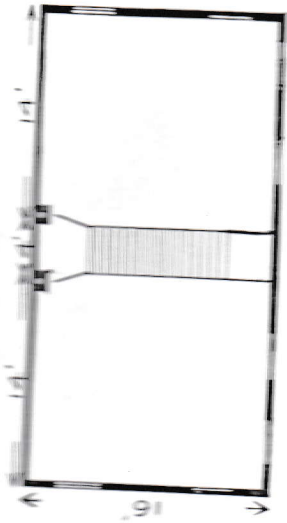
Warner W. Oglesby, Henry Hummel, and Joel Seth Post.

ENTERED APPRENTICES

John P. Tinbrook and Andrew S. Williams.

IN THE NEXT GRAND LODGE

On October 3, 1842, Macon Lodge No. 8 was regularly represented in the Grand Lodge by Henry Prather and Joel S. Post, the latter being Junior Grand Deacon. Bro. Prather was appointed Junior Grand Deacon and a member of the Committee on Returns and Work, and Bro. Post was appointed a member of the Committee on Petitions and Grievances. During this Communication of the Grand Lodge, the next Masonic Lodge, Rushville No. 9 at Rushville, was granted a Charter. A resolution to refund to Macon Lodge No. 8 its Grand Lodge dues for the year was voted on and lost. No reason appears for such a resolution, unless it was that Macon Lodge had undertaken the building of a Masonic Hall at the corner of Water and North Park streets, the cornerstone of which was laid in June, 1842.



House on East Wood Street Where Macon Lodge, U. D., Held Its First Meeting, July 17, 1841, with floor plan of second floor.

From History of Macon Lodge No. 8 A. F. and A. M., written by a committee for the seventy-fifth anniversary of Macon Lodge No. 8 Review Printing and Stationery Co., 1916., p. 25

dence after the Lodge moved from it. Many of our brethren at this time should remember this house, as it was not torn down until about 1900.

THE FIRST RECORD

The first Minutes of the new Lodge are not complete, still we must rejoice that we have some Records. They were written on loose sheets, and afterwards transferred to a small book with cardboard backs entitled:

"Records and Proceedings of Macon Lodge held in the Town of Decatur, Macon County, Ill., under a Dispensation from the Most Worshipful Aoram Joran, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois.

Attested by
W. H. Warren,

Grand Secretary.

First day of July A. T., 5841, A. D., 1841."

The Brethren met in first Communion pursuant to an agreement at the Hall in Decatur on July 17, 1841. Present:

- G. A. Patterson, W. M.
- Joseph King, S. W.
- Wm. LaForge, J. W.
- Henry Prather, Sec. pro tem, and Treas.
- Elijah League, S. D., pro tem.
- Leonard Ashton, J. D., pro tem.
- James Ashton, Steward and Tyler, pro tem.

THE DISPENSATION AMENDED

Lodge being opened on the Master Mason's Degree, the first matter which demanded attention was the adoption of By-Laws. By a previous arrangement a set of By-Laws had been prepared, and were promptly adopted as they were read. The Dispensation under which the Meeting was held was next produced, the blank for the name was filled by writing the word "Macon," thus giving the Lodge a name, and the name "Elijah LaForge," which appeared in the Dispensation by error, was changed to Elijah League. The name of Henry

THE LODGE INSTITUTED
JULY 17, 1841, IN A FRAME HOUSE

The History of Macon Lodge No. 8 begins in a two-story frame house, which stood on the north side of East Wood Street, the second lot west of Franklin Street, and was the property of Jacob Spangler. The Lodge met there just about one year, but the size and arrangement not being adapted to a growing institution, in July or August 1842, it became imperative to move. Jacob Spangler built the house for himself and his intended bride, but she died before they moved into it, and Macon Lodge became the tenant. It was a well built house, containing four large rooms, two on the first and two on the second floor, each sixteen by fourteen feet, in dimensions. Jacob Spangler's father operated a saw mill on the bank of the Sangamon River, near where the Spangler bridge is. The house was thirty-two feet long, facing South, and sixteen feet wide. A hall four feet wide extended through the centre, north and south, with a stairway from the front door to the second floor landing. A door opening upon this landing admitted the members to the Lodge Room, which was the West Room on the second floor. A door to the right admitted to the opposite room. Light was admitted through double sash windows, two in front and two at the end of each room, each sash containing nine panes of glass. The north wall of the house contained no windows. The outside was weatherboarded, and the roof shingled. Each room boasted a brick chimney, running up the north wall in the corners near the doors. The only other structures in the neighborhood at the time were the frame house on the high lot at the southeast corner of Franklin and Wood Streets, and the Christian Church at the northeast corner of Water and Wood Streets. Hosea J. Armstrong, of Macon Lodge, occupied the house as a resi-

Summary
History of Macon Lodge No. 8 O. T. and A. M. The members by a committee of members for the 100th Anniversary of Macon Lodge No. 8 No. 18 of Burlington and Statensky Co., 1916, p. 26

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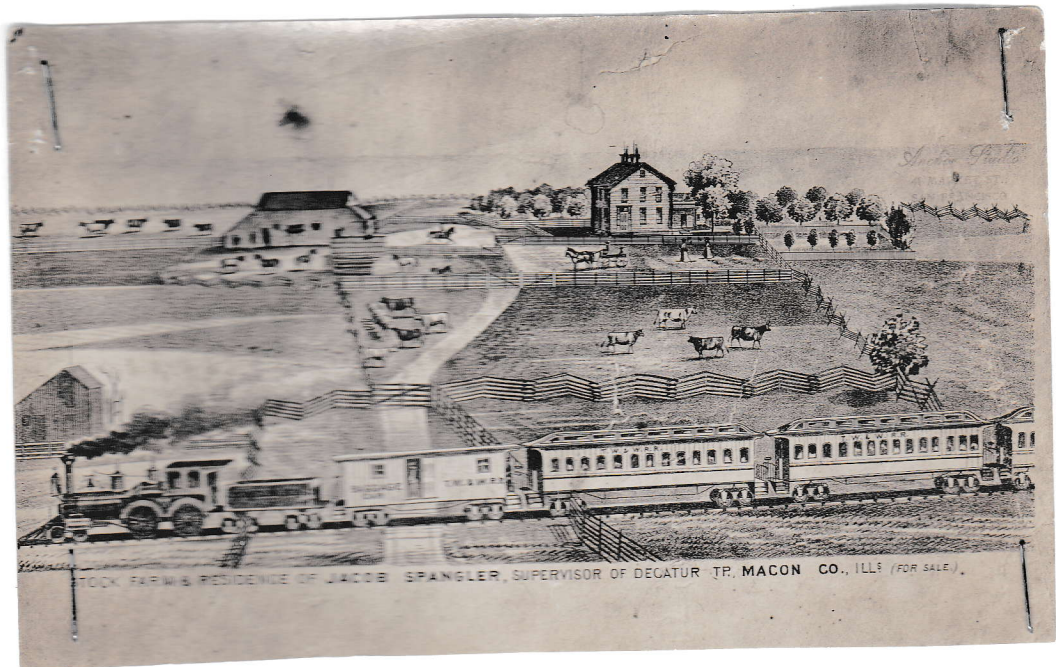
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FUNERAL NOTICE.

The funeral services of JOSEPH SPANGLER, Senior, will take place at his late residence, one mile east of Decatur on Wednesday the 19th inst. at 11 o'clock A. M.

The friends of the family and public are respectfully invited to attend.

Decatur Feb. 17, 1862.

Joseph Spangler, Sr.

Father of
Jacob, Sr.

The Story Of Decatur

By E. T. Coleman

APRIL 6, 1924

DECATUR REVIEW

CHAPTER 126.

RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS.

William Spangler Recalls Many Incidents of His Youth Which Are Vital Bits of the Mosaic That Is the Story of Decatur.

Jacob Spangler, father of William (Pat) Spangler of Orcau, lived a mile and three quarters east of the Illinois Central passenger station and about a quarter of a mile north of the Wabash railroad. The house is still standing. Going out of Decatur on the Fairies Park road there are two jogs to the north. The old Spangler home stands a quarter of a mile east of the second jog, where the road turns north into the Green's Switch road.

Jacob Spangler came to this county in 1835, six years after the county was organized, and may therefore be regarded as a pioneer. A son, William Spangler, was a small boy when the

Wabash was built east out of Decatur. It was then eight railroad tracks that called his "Pat" for which they he was paying the penalty in eternal torment, with many others who have called small boys out of their names.

Pat rode the horse that pulled the mill engine at Decatur back to the farm when they were to be used. They were on a plank car in the yard and the car was drawn by a horse. The rails and ties were light, perhaps a fourth or a fifth as heavy as the steel rails now used. For a good part of the distance they had to be drawn by horse, there was a descending grade and the car would occasionally roll back. Pat gave his services for the fun of riding the car.

SEES FIRST RAILROAD TRAIN.

Mr. Spangler recalls vividly the first railroad train that he saw. He had a schoolmate at the time and they were going to school in the morning. The train was coming from the west and they were looking for the Illinois Central passenger station south of Decatur. The tracks were high and Patrick did not know that there was a railroad there, so he was surprised that there was such a thing as a passenger train at all. He did not know of the railroad track and was sure of the appearance of the train. It did not occur to him to get out and see the train. The first Pat or the

locomotive whistled right in their faces. The horse probably never got away from the barrier at such speed in all its racing life. Pat admits that he was as badly frightened as the horse and worse if possible. He did not try to stop the animal and he might have urged it to greater speed but that he realized it was doing its best.

This was before the Wabash track east of Decatur through the Spangler farm was built and taking this fact as a landmark the incident probably happened in 1837.

FOURTEEN TONS OF OXEN.

Pat Spangler saw hauled from Decatur the steam engine and boiler for the Spangler mill. The mill stood on the East William street road and on the east bank of the river. There was no bridge there then and the river was crossed by a ford. The mill was for many years a water mill and was changed to steam because of the uncertainty of the Sangamon as a source of water power. The railroad car which brought the new engine to Decatur was placed just south of the old Illinois Central passenger station and from there the engine was transferred to a wagon. The wagon sank into the mud on the bank. The machinery was put back on the car and a larger and heavier wagon was brought. This was drawn to the mill by fourteen tons of oxen.

The mill was built by the elder Spangler about 1835. After he had owned it a few years he sold it and the mill passed into the hands of Mr. J. C. Joseph. It was built on a good mill and a saw mill. One day while making a trip through the same way, struck Joseph Spangler and killed him. Patrick Spangler is

of the opinion that the mill was never operated after that. The machinery was sold and moved away.

ONLY WITNESS OF A MURDER.

Mr. Spangler saw a man murdered at the corner of Morgan and East Eldorado streets when he was a boy of eleven or twelve. The exact date he can not fix nor of course his exact age. Nor can he recall the name of the man killed. The man who did the killing was Patsey Maher, driver of the old Revere House bus. It happened that Mr. Spangler was the only witness.

A two story boarding house stood at this corner and on that night there was a dance in this house. An older Spangler boy and the hired man attended the dance. Pat was too young to go to dances but he surreptitiously followed the two older youths to town. He did not go into the house but stood outside and looked in. The man who was murdered was going likewise.

STAGE SET FOR KILLING.

It was at this stage that Maher came out from the dance, undoubtedly drunk and with a blind, murderous rage in his heart. There was no altercation between him and the man that had been standing outside, nothing to provoke an assault. Maher attacked him with a club and beat him to death. Pat screamed in his terror and the revolvers came pouring out from the dance but the deed had been done.

Maher was tried in the old brick courthouse in Lincoln square. Pat was of course the chief witness. He was in abject terror at the thought of what might happen to him. He was sure that he would be put in jail. Only the closest watchfulness on the part of his father who had brought him to court and two or three of the neighbors prevented him from running away before he could be put on the witness stand.

Maher was defended by Brower Bunn and another lawyer. Mr. Spangler thinks that this other man was either Abraham Lincoln or John R. Eden. In either case he was ably defended. The name of the prosecuting attorney can not be recalled. Maher was convicted and was given a year in the state's prison.

(To Be Continued)

The Story Of Decatur

By E. B. Hitchcock

Friday, January 18, 1924 Decatur Review

CHAPTER XI.

SOME WHO CAME EARLY.

Jacob Spangler, Rev. John W. Tyler, David Brett and Dayton Dunham Among First County Residents.

Some men who were destined to have an important part in the development of Macon county arrived in 1835 and 1836. These are some of the men who came here in those years and helped to get things started: David Brett, Dayton Dunham, Jacob Spangler and Rev. John W. Tyler.

There were many others who came here during these two years, which marked the arrival of many pioneers, but these are chosen as typical of the men who set their feet on the new soil.

THEY WILL REMEMBER

David Brett was a native of Virginia and was one of the first to settle in Macon county. He was a farmer and a merchant. He was a member of the Baptist church and was a prominent man in the community. He was one of the first to build a school house in Macon county. He was also one of the first to build a church in Macon county. He was a man of many talents and was a great help to the community.

Dayton Dunham was a native of New Jersey and was one of the first to settle in Macon county. He was a farmer and a merchant. He was a member of the Baptist church and was a prominent man in the community. He was one of the first to build a school house in Macon county. He was also one of the first to build a church in Macon county. He was a man of many talents and was a great help to the community.

John W. Tyler was a native of Kentucky and was one of the first to settle in Macon county. He was a farmer and a merchant. He was a member of the Baptist church and was a prominent man in the community. He was one of the first to build a school house in Macon county. He was also one of the first to build a church in Macon county. He was a man of many talents and was a great help to the community.

Macon county to reside was born Sept 27, 1808, at Lexington, Ky., and was the son of Benjamin Tyler and Susannah Shores Tyler. Lexington was then quite a center and growing rapidly. Log cabins were being displaced by better houses. There were even schools where the "Three R's" could be learned.

When John Tyler was seventeen years old, General LaFayette visited Lexington and so impressed him as a military hero that he wanted to be a soldier, himself.

In 1833 cholera ravaged Lexington. In less than ten days 1,500 people were prostrated and they died at the rate of fifty a day. Saddened by this scourge, the people turned to religion, and there was a great revival. Young John Tyler was converted. That was in the summer of 1834, and almost immediately he began preaching.

Previously John Tyler and Elvira Oxley had been married, but she died in 1833. A year later he married Sarah Roney, and seven sons and four daughters were born to them.

In the fall of 1834 John W. Tyler and his family left Kentucky, locating in Montgomery county, Indiana, where he organized a church which he called the Union Baptist Church of Christ. Then they went to Morgan county, Illinois, where many from their section of Kentucky had preceded them. One year later he moved again, this time to Macon county, where he lived until his death in 1888. He was widely known as a farmer, justice of the peace, schoolmaster and minister. He

STARTED MANY CHURCHES

John W. Tyler was related to John Tyler, tenth president of the United States, and he came of a long line of men and women whose activities during the early colonial and revolutionary times made them notable. The John W. Tyler who came to

preached all over Macon county and in the counties of Moultrie, Platt, Sangamon and Christian, and many churches flourishing throughout central Illinois owe their beginnings to his zealous enthusiasm. His wife followed him in death in 1892.

RENTED, THEN OWNED LAND.

When his father died in Virginia, David Brett was twenty-two years of age. He took charge of the family's affairs and stayed at the old homestead until 1835, when he came to Macon county, Illinois, in a wagon. He rented land in Decatur township for two years, then removing to Hickory Point, where his father had entered a claim some years before. He lived there until 1848, when he bought section 35, of Hickory Point township, where he made his home henceforth. David Brett and Elizabeth Wheeler were married in 1847, and these were their children: Annie M.; Richard; Frances I., who married John Christie, another Hickory Point farmer; and David E., who always was a farmer in Macon county.

DAYTON DUNHAM, HATTER.

Dayton Dunham was the father of Amos Dunham, for whom Dunham Post, G. A. R., is named, and was born in Essex county, N. J., Nov. 1, 1814. His father was a tailor who removed to Indiana and died there of cholera. The son was apprenticed to a hatter and learned that trade, which he followed for many years.

The young hatter came to Macon county in 1836 and was married to Marilla Robinson, daughter of Amos Robinson and Elizabeth Hughes, of Vermont. They had six sons and four daughters, as follows: Henry D. Dunham, who married Emma Krantz; Eva and Orville; Sarah E., widow of William Daffley; Amos Dunham, first Decatur man killed in the Civil war, who fell at Fort Donelson; Orvis and Orrin, twins, who died in infancy; Caroline E., wife of James Bullard; Henrietta, widow of Robert L. Perry; and Charles E. Dunham.

(To Be Continued.)

History of Decatur

and Macon County.

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Chapter 100.

Whitmore Township.

By Louise Gantz Likins.

(Continued.)

In December, 1833, the county court ordered a new election precinct or voting district formed. The district was named Draper's and John Dickey, William Howell, and James Platt were appointed judges. In March, 1834, Draper's district lines were set as follows: "Beginning at center of road three miles west sixteen and seventeen sections east and north including the settlements on both sides the north fork of the Sangamon river up to county line but not to include any part of Salt Creek. John Dickey, A. Marquis, and William Howell were then appointed judges, and a selling place fixed at the house of John Draper (the old trading house of the Lortons).

In 1834, Mr. Stuart moved from Decatur to Draper's district. He bought eighty acres of land from the government. His farm was half timber and half prairie in section thirteen, township seventeen north, range three east. For a number of years he hauled his grain to Springfield to market. He and his family experienced all the trials and hardships of pioneer life. Indians still lived in the neighborhood.

His children, Oliver, John and Mary, went to a subscription school in a log house on section thirteen. This building was of an extremely primitive type, and school was in session only three months of the year. Oliver Stuart moved to section fourteen at the time of his marriage in 1854. He did not buy from the government, for in 1836 the Arnold Naudian company had taken up 560 acres for speculation, leaving Joseph Fiorey the eighty acres which he entered. Mr. Stuart cast his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont in 1856 in the old Lorton trading house which was used as a polling place for that election district.

In October, 1834, John Huston, a native of Virginia, who had emigrated to Pickaway county, O., started for Illinois with his wife, Phoebe Swisher Huston, and six children. They struck the Sangamon river five miles from Monticello on the second of November, just a month from the time they started. They stayed there only a few weeks then moved to Draper's district. The father entered 240 acres of land in sections eight and nine, township seventeen north, range four east. His son, Ulysses Huston, went to school near there. The school house was built of logs, with greased paper for windows, puncheon floor, and slab benches. Rev. D. P. Buzz was his teacher.

MURFREESBORO LAID OUT.

On Sept. 2, 1834, Benjamin R. Austin, county surveyor, laid off the town of Murfreesboro on the southeast one-fourth of the southeast one-fourth of section seven, township seventeen north, range four east, on land belonging to William Dickey, who agreed in proper legal fashion to "divvy out" the streets, alleys, and a public square for the use of the public."

William Platt, John Denney, Joseph DeLong, James Van Deventer, P. S. Loughborough, John Long, Philip Hale, Henry Havely, John and George

son-in-law, Dr. Johns, of Decatur.

LAND ENTRIES.

Many settlers did not buy their land when they first came. The country was strange, undrained, and unhealthy. They wanted to find out more about it before they paid even a dollar and a quarter an acre for it. A list of land entries, dry and uninteresting, but giving definite information, follows. Some of these had lived on the land several years before buying from the government. Others, probably bought the "squatter rights" of still earlier families who had decided to take up land elsewhere. The first land entry was made in 1830 in this township of Whitmore:

1. John White, May 8, 1830—80 A. in sec. 13, T. 17N. R. 3E.
2. John Draper, April 15, 1831—80 A. in sec. 18, T. 17N. R. 4E.
3. George Whitmore, October 5, 1833—160 A. in sec. 28, T. 17N. R. 3E.
4. D. N. Stuart, December 12, 1833—80 A. in sec. 13, T. 17N. R. 3E.
5. Samuel Rittenhouse, March 6, 1834—160 A. in sec. 32 and 33, T. 17N. R. 3E.
6. Elisha Querry, March 11, 1834—80 A. in sec. 13, T. 17N. R. 3E.
7. John Huston, November 30, 1834—240 A. in sec. 8 and 9, T. 17N. R. 4E.
8. James Van Deventer, December 8, 1834—80 A. in sec. 5, T. 17N. R. 4E.
9. David Dickey, January 21, 1835—80 A. in sec. 4, T. 17N. R. 4E.
10. George W. Zinn, June 2, 1835—40 A. in sec. 9, T. 17N. R. 4E.
11. Mary Coleman, July 5, 1835—80 A. in sec. 13, T. 17N. R. 3E.
12. Andrew Reed, Jr., July 25, 1835—160 A. in sec. 23, T. 17N. R. 3E.
13. Luther Meed, August 5, 1835—160 A. in sec. 18, T. 17N. R. 3E.
14. Joseph Packard, August 5, 1835—120 A. in sec. 18, T. 17N. R. 3E.
15. Peter Eastman, August 5, 1835—80 A. in sec. 18, T. 17N. R. 3E.
16. William Dickey, August 22, 1835—40 A. in sec. 7, T. 17N. R. 3E.
17. Samuel and Eliza and George W. Cassaday entered nearly 1,000 acres late in 1835 and early in 1836 in sections 4, 5, 8, and 9 in the extreme northeastern corner of the township.
18. William House, December 19, 1835—80 A. in sec. 33, T. 17N. R. 3E.
19. Many entries were made in 1836 "the year of the sudden freeze." Jacob and Joseph Spangler took up 440 acres near the river in sections 15, 21, 22, and 24. David Fiorey entered his forty acres in section 21. Jacob Garver entered 80 acres in section 29. Henry Zorger entered 160 acres in sections 15 and 22. Caleb Warfield and his wife, Nancy Rea Warfield, of Oakley township fame, entered the 80 acres, half quarter east of Jacob Garver in section 29. Gerard M. Cooper entered 160 acres in sections 20 and 21. Isaac Chauncery entered 480 acres in section 21, and the William Sullivan and Arnold Naudian companies picked up vast tracts in many different sections which had been partly settled.

POOR YEAR.

1837 was a poor year. There was a financial depression and money was scarce. Benjamin Zorger and his wife, Nancy Good Zorger, entered forty acres in section 10 which was the first entry made. He and his wife were the first people laid in the Union cemetery. Their graves are unmarked, but it is known that they were buried in the central part of the old cemetery before 1847. Abram Stickle entered 260 acres in section 11 in 1837. Jacob Rife entered 240 acres in sections 21 and 22 in 1837.

August 7, 1929

History of Decatur

and Macon County.

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Chapter 101.

Whitmore Township.

By Louise Gantz Likins.

(Continued.)

Jacob Garver entered his eighty acres on the 18th of June, 1836. It was the west one-half of the northeast one-fourth of section 29, township 17 north, range 3 east. By 1838, the three Garver brothers, John, Jacob and David, together with the three Garver sisters and their husbands, Joseph Rife, Henry Hummel and John Epler, had brought their families to Macon county. These families were the nucleus of the Garver settlement in what we now call "The Brick Church" neighborhood. They came from Lancaster and Dauphin counties in Pennsylvania, and were of German descent. The settlement prospered. It was nearer Decatur than any other in this township, and many other settlers were drawn to it. The younger Garvers worked in Spangler's flour-mill. Jacob Spangler had located on a farm in Whitmore township before he was able to persuade his father to come from York county, Pa., and build Spangler's mill, four miles east of Decatur on the river. "Pat" or William Spangler is a son of Jacob Spangler.

In 1838, John Good of York county, Pa., came to this township perhaps to see his sister, Nancy Good Zorger. This young man had been a shoemaker in Buffalo for four years before coming here. A stranger along the road walking from Shelbyville to Decatur, he had inquired "the way to the Garver settlement," and the Garvers gave him a hospitable welcome.

David Garver, youngest of the three brothers, and his wife, Mary Melhorn Garver, bought the land now owned by Mrs. Ed Houston. John Good built the first house on that land. A part of his work still stands as a wing of the brick Garver home built later in 1849. David Garver entered forty acres in section 20 in 1848. Jacob Garver and his wife, Susan Hisey Garver, lived west and a little south of them in a large log house back in the field. John Good bought a farm of 120 acres in Whitmore township which was part timber. In 1841 he married Nancy Garver, a daughter of Jacob Garver, and moved to Hickory Point township.

John Garver, the oldest of the three Illinois Garvers, whose wife was Margaret Wagoner Garver, lived a short distance south of the others. Religious meetings were held in the brick Garver home, then in a Garver schoolhouse one-fourth mile west before the old brick church was built. Jacob Garver stored flour, brought from Springfield, at his home for settlers who came later and were not able to get settled for winter before the roads "broke up." Cattle and hogs raised in the settlement were sometimes driven to St. Louis to market, and wheat hauled to Springfield or even Chicago.

ZORGER'S COME.

In 1839, the main party of Zorgers came from York county Pa. John Zorger, his wife, Mary Furringer Zorger, and his six older children came in a covered wagon with good teams, a tent and a stove. John and Benjamin were brothers, then there were half-brothers and sisters of these older ones. John Zorger lived first in Oakley township and took up a little land there, but soon came across the river. Here they lived for a time in the David Garver home. Susan Zorger (Morrison) was born there in 1841. Her daughter, Mrs. Grant Kirby, still has in her home a rocking chair which made the trip from Pennsylvania in 1839 in the Zorger wagons. An old chest of the same vintage was destroyed in a recent fire.

The Zorger families lived in true pioneer style. They made meal by pounding corn in a mortar. As they were a large family, and the meal making a slow process, it took them most of one day to get

Smith Was Prominent Water Street Builder

Decatur Sunday Herald and Review 9/14/69

THERE IS only a little resemblance between Water Street in 1895 and in 1969.

By Otto R. Kyle

For the Herald and Review

The distinction of starting the development of Water Street as a main business thoroughfare of Decatur goes to Edward Owen Smith.

He arrived in Decatur in 1837 26 years old, with only a few dollars in his pocket but with a great deal of energy and foresight.

Smith was the fourth of six children of Rev. James Smith of Baltimore, Md. He was born in 1817. After his father's death he went to live with his grandmother. He started to make his own way in the world at the age of 15, going to Washington where he clerked in a store. In the fall of 1834 he started for Ohio with \$25 and a knapsack over his shoulder.

In Springfield, Ohio, he found work with Samuel Price and learned carpentry. A great ailment caused him to move on westward to Monticello, Ind., and then south to Terre Haute, where he remained a year. As spring arrived he decided it was time to move and he arrived in Decatur in May.

His first work was to build a house for Capt. D.D. Allen on Water Street just north of North Street. Then he built another house just south of the Allen residence.

After these were completed he built the Macon Hotel on Franklin Street. At that time that area was heavy timber.

The next winter he built Spencer's Mill on the

Savannah River four miles east of Decatur.

In 1853 Smith paid the first of a number of visits to California, with 39 young men.

His first construction business after his return two years later was on Water Street. Smith also constructed two buildings just north of Prairie Street. Then he joined with Dr. J.T.B. Stapp in construction of the Stapp row of buildings on South Park Street.

He started for California again in 1858 with 41 young men. He was gone three years—and the tale of those years makes a big story in itself, involving fights with Indians, food shortages and a return through Texas to New Orleans and then up the Mississippi to Cairo and on to Decatur.

In March of 1861 he was elected mayor of Decatur.

He served but one year, but that was not his first public service. In 1847 he was a member of the Illinois Constitutional convention representing Macon and Piatt counties. In 1848 as a Whig candidate he was elected a state senator representing Macon, McLean, Taxewell, Logan, and DeWitt counties. While in the Senate he was active in trying to get assistance for the construction of the Illinois Central and Northern Cross (now Norfolk & Western) railroads. Later he was active in getting several railroads to run through Decatur.



E.O. Smith

He later erected, at what is now 225 North Water Street, the Smith Opera House, the first opera house in Decatur. It was opened in 1870. Most of the prominent actors and actresses of that period appeared at the opera house—Joseph Jefferson, Lillian Russell, Thomas Keene, Edwin Booth, Minnie Madern Fiske and others.

The theater continued until the Powers Opera House on South Water Street was opened in 1889. The Smith structure was then converted into business rooms.

With the completion of the opera house, Smith moved to California. But he did not relinquish his ownership of the opera house, and owned a number of large farms as well as Decatur property.

Smith made his home at San Jose, Calif., in 1870 and there he died March 8, 1892.

Decatur Review

July 18, 1929

Decatur became a town of 1,000 before a lodge of any order was formed.

It is suggested that for about twenty years at the time Decatur was getting started, interest in secret societies was at a low ebb. Early in the century a man named Morgan had been drowned in Lake Erie. A charge was made that Masons were connected with the occurrence. Secret societies were at low ebb for a time.

MACON LODGE FIRST.

Lodge history in Decatur begins with Macon Lodge No. 8, A. F. and A. M. The first meeting recorded as July 8, A. D. 1841. A name was selected at that meeting and officers chosen as follows:

Worshipful Master—G. A. Patterson.

Senior Warden—Joseph King.

Junior Warden—William LeForgee.

Secretary Pro-Tem and Treasurer—Henry Prather.

Senior Deacon Pro-Tem—Elijah League.

Junior Deacon Pro-Tem—Leonard Ashton.

Steward and Tiler Pro-Tem—James Ashton.

Meetings were held in a two-story frame house on the north side of East Wood street, the second house west of Franklin. It was the property of Jacob Spangler. He had built the house in anticipation of being married, but his bride died just before the wedding, so the lodge rented the house. Meetings were held there about a year.

Warner W. Oglesby and Henry Hummel were the first two taken in after the organization. Jerome R. Gorin, father of O. B. Gorin, and afterwards one of the most prominent Masons in the state of Illinois, was one of the early members.

BUILT SCHOOL HOUSE.

Minutes of the lodge show that on Mar. 26, 1842 a new meeting place was discussed. Citizens of Decatur were proposing to build a school house. The lodge was invited to join, taking the second floor. This it decided to do.

By April, 1842, a subscription list was prepared on which were shown donations of oak flooring, walnut plank, carpenter work at \$1.50 a day, brick laying, painting, shingles, and so on, all for amounts set down by the members, among them being George A. Patterson, Henry Prather, Charles H. Pringle, Jerome R. Gorin, Joseph F. King, Henry Hummel, W. M. LeForgee, W. W. Oglesby, J. S. Polk, J. W. Bridge, H. Robinson—all names that appeared many times afterwards in the history of Decatur.

The new building, owned jointly by citizens interested in the school, and the like, was at the northeast corner of North Water and Park, where the Citizens bank building now is, facing on Park street. The cornerstone was laid June 24, 1842.

The ground floor was the first room built in Decatur for a school. School had been held in various residences and churches before that.

On Mar. 21, 1845, the secretary was instructed to purchase "three patent lard lamps from any indebtedness due the lodge when collected."

The first carpet for the lodge was ordered on Apr. 20, 1850.

The Masons of Decatur had a big picnic on St. John's day, 1851, June 24, when, headed by the Decatur band, they assembled at the lodge rooms and marched to James Renshaw's orchard. That was then at the southwest corner of Main and Prairie streets, where the Linn & Scruggs store

By E. T. Coleman

DECATUR REVIEW THE STORY OF DECATUR APRIL 5, 1924

WILLIAM SPANGLER, NEAR PIONEER.

Recollections of Lincoln and Oglesby by the Son of Early Settler.

William (Pat) Spangler has lived in Howe County all his life, which is a matter of sixty-eight years. All of that time he has spent within what may be called a stone's throw of Decatur. His father, Paul Spangler, was one of the pioneers. He was a well-known character and a person of affairs in this early settling neighborhood here. William Spangler has therefore a fair knowledge of tradition that reaches back to the early days of the settlement and a personal acquaintance with Macon and Decatur that goes back more than half a century. Few persons living here are so well acquainted with the history of the county as he.



WILLIAM (PAT) SPANGLER.

...as might have been found. But he was there and was happy. He was there, indeed, to an extent that he could never have hoped for. It was the only person in front of the grave of the president's car when the crowd gathered, looking at the casket and standing by both sides of the grave and kindly words were spoken to the crowd.

NEVER FORGETTING, NEVER CAME.

Some of the neighbors stopped at the Spangler's home on their way home and at the dinner table one of them wishing to make kindly notice of the man said "Well, Pat, I saw you get to shake hands with the casket and stand by both sides of the grave and kindly words were spoken to the crowd."

OGLESBY TO THE RESCUE.

General Oglesby was present. No doubt he had felt as keenly as others the abrupt termination of the funeral sermon. He mounted a large white oak stump which stood at the head of the grave and thereupon delivered such a funeral oration as is rarely heard. Oglesby could be intensely eloquent when he was aroused and this was an occasion to inspire him.

SAVE'S YOUNG MAN'S VOTE.

There was a sequel to that address. At the next election in which Oglesby was a candidate he carried the Democratic townships of Long Creek and Oakley by an overwhelming majority. No doubt there was nothing further from Oglesby's mind than the making of votes when he delivered the funeral oration but he made them.

LAWYER JURIST AND MAN.

Another time Mr. Spangler recalls Oglesby with a glow of satisfaction. Pat was trying to cast his first vote at Charley Drohn's place on East North street. It was difficult for a Democrat to vote at all in those days and the judges were making it very hard for him. They were subjecting him to a rigid examination and he must have his vote sworn in. While this was proceeding Richard J. Oglesby came along. "That man is entitled to a vote," he exclaimed. "I have known him for forty years."

STARTED SHORT OF HEAVEN.

That ended the ordeal and Pat was permitted to vote.

neighbors, the members of the bar and many others from Decatur. The minister who preached the funeral sermon extolled his ability as a judge and lawyer and his qualities as a citizen. Mr. Spangler vividly remembers he did not take the casket to the grave. He left the direction of the casket lawyer and jurist a task. The omission was plainly intended and the neighbors were grieved and indignant. Some body another about the same time.

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There was only one thing the matter with Oglesby," says Mr. Spangler with profound conviction, "and that was his brand of politics."

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That ended the ordeal and Pat was permitted to vote.

(The Decatur Review)

History Of Decatur and Macon County

Decatur Review 12/18/1929

Long Creek Township

By Mrs. L. N. LINDSEY

The history of Long Creek township was written by Mrs. L. N. Lindsey as a part of the Macon county centennial history. The manuscript is too extensive to be presented in full as a newspaper article. The more important details have been selected, and will be printed in six chapters, one appearing each day until all have been published.

The article in full will be offered in the book to be published by the historical committee.

Chapter 139.

First Industries

Probably the first established industries in Long Creek township were the mills for grinding corn. The first mill was established by Joseph McGinnis. It was run by horsepower. About this time, Joseph Davis, too, had a horse mill which ground corn.

Folks came from miles around with grain for this mill. Seymour Marquis came from Monticello with corn.

This mill finally burned down, and it was never rebuilt. The need for it was not so imperative. A more extensive grinding place had been provided. It was the Spangler mill, just across the line in Decatur township.

Steam mills finally rendered obsolete the water mills, as water mills had superseded the horse mills.

ACCIDENT VICTIM

Mr. Spangler died Feb. 17, 1862, the victim of an accident in his own saw-mill. At this time, the river was too high to be forded; so the funeral party had to be ferried across the river in small boats, and the farmers on the opposite side met the party and conveyed them to the Spangler cemetery, now called Brush College.

CARRIAGE NOTEWORTHY

During his lifetime, his family carriage was so noteworthy as to merit attention. It was built by hand for Judge Emerson. It was three-seated, had silver platings, was richly-upholstered, and was a marvel of a rig as carriages were made in those days. It was so strongly built that it served three families, Judge Emerson, Mr. Spangler and the father of W. J. Carter.

Joseph Spangler was born Jan. 14, 1788, in Cumberland county, Pa. In 1834 he came to Macon county. In 1836 he applied for authority to build the mill.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

The need for blacksmith shops was scarcely less vital than that for mills. It is recorded that a Mr. Ehrhart set up the first blacksmith shop, and that one was established on Sec. 28 by John Bell in 1830. A popular shop was maintained at the Joseph Davis stage stand; another on the stage road was located on land now owned by John Jones. It was kept by William Reedy.

Stephen N. Blythe was a wagon maker, and did general smith work. He had a blacksmith shop on his farm in Sec. 33. He came from Ohio in 1836 and purchased this farm on which four generations of Blythes have now lived. A walnut tree which he planted that first spring is still standing. At that time his house was the only one along the county line between Cerro Gordo and Bethany.

FIRST COMMUTER

Robert M. Butts, too, was a blacksmith, and he was the earliest commuter in the township, since he lived on what is now the J. Taylor place and worked in Decatur. He with his family and others had come from
(Please Turn to Page Seven)

Discrepancy:

See Funeral
Notice regarding
place of funeral,
his home, one
← mile east of
Decatur. (E. Wood
Street)

Judge Charles
Emerson

← died
April 16, 1870,
Age 59 yrs. 1 da.
{ North Fork
Cemetery
tombstone }

The history of Long Creek township was written by Mrs. J. N. Lindsey as a part of the Macon county centennial history. The manuscript is so extensive to be presented in full as a newspaper article. The more important details have been selected, and will be printed in six chapters, one appearing each day until all have been published.

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Dec. 19, 1929
Lester Frazier

Chapter 140.

Schools.

The earliest school building in the township of which there is report was a log house on the John Jones farm. It is not known when it was erected, but it must have been before 1830. It was known as the Black school. Some of the children attending school in Mt. Zion township. There were no roads, so the pupils passed a trail through the high mountains and wild untamed was constructed at that time.

Later in the 1830s a school was conducted in the Long Creek church. It was taught by Anna R. Adams, who in later years became Mrs. James Hamilton. In 1838 children from District No. 2 attended school at Cherry Point school house. In 1839 the district was divided, the new district to be known as District 7, and a new school house was built. Hannah Mackey was the first teacher.

NEW PROBLEMA.

When the Mt. Zion academy closed its doors in 1839 there was a new problem to face in Long Creek township for advanced pupils had been attending school at Mt. Zion. So a second story was built to the school house to be used for instruction in the higher branches. Before it was nearly built, but just before completion it burned. In 1839 a new two-story building was erected. About 1840 this building, too, was destroyed by fire and another new building followed. In 1845 the present building was erected.

REGENCY.

The Robert Stephens school house was built on the farm owned by him about a quarter of a mile south of where the present school stands. Henry Stephens was largely instrumental in organizing the school, which bore his name, and it was to him that Walter Baber came in 1843, with but seventy-five cents in his pocket, seeking the position of schoolmaster. He was granted that privilege.

The school house was made of unhewn logs, about twenty feet long and sixteen feet wide. Each pupil brought some quilts for seats and the schoolmaster made the pens as needed with his pocket knife. This was the origin of the name, pen knife.

EMERSON.

The Emerson school was located on the same tract of Long Creek on the farm formerly owned by James Emerson and now belonging to James Myers. In April, 1853, it was burned and a new one built on the same site. The school was taught while the building stood in the Judge's meadow, on its way from the old to the new location.

Little is known of J. R. Smith, the first teacher on record. He taught from Oct. 1, 1853, to April 4, 1854, for a term of six months. The Emerson school was abandoned in 1857.

Its successors were William Herman, Hiram Wheeler, Joseph Joseph, Joseph Joseph

The first school house was built that year on land given by Traugber D. Davis. The builders were J. B. Bowman, William Herman and Hiram G. Wheeler. Traugber Davis was the first teacher.

The first central examination in Macon county was held at Eldorado school house Feb. 3, 1862, under the direction of John Trainer, then county superintendent. In 1891 the first building was replaced by another, which served the district until Dec. 24, 1925, when it was destroyed by fire. Plans were made at once for a new building, which was opened Sept. 8, 1926.

SALEM.

In early days what is now the Salem school district was included in what was then District No. 1. A school house was located on Section 28, one-half mile west of Antioch church. It was built by Philip Corman. In April, 1867, a new district known as No. 8, was formed. It purchased the building of District No. 1 and moved it to its new location on Section 22, one and a quarter miles east of the old site. In 1892 the building was sold for \$45 and moved away. It is still standing and is being used as a garage, a quarter of a mile northeast of the second site. In 1893 a new site was purchased and a new school building erected on Section 27. H. W. Davis taught the first school in District No. 8.

OAK RIDGE.

Oak Ridge school was built about 1867, the work being done by H. Herman. David Forey taught the first term. The building was once used for religious purposes. People of the United Brethren faith met there. They were organized in 1879 by Rev. M. G. Chew and in 1891 built a small church building, but the organization did not prosper and finally the building was sold.

BOIS D'ARC.

The Bois D'Arc school was established in its present location in 1862. Previous to this it was located one mile south and half a mile west. It was first known as the Cherry Point school. Miss Nellie Powell's first teacher of the third school, was the one who suggested the name Bois D'Arc. Wesley and Brammel Powell, brothers, had both taught the Cherry Point school. Wesley Powell became known to history as the man who first explored and surveyed the Grand Canyon of the Colorado river. Brammel Powell was the father of Maud Powell, famous violinist. The school became quite a community center.

CASNER.

The first school to serve the community about Casner was built in 1863 and was known as Pleasant Plains school. It was located on land of W. H. Carman. The building was 18 by 24 feet in size. After the village of Casner was laid out, the school house was moved to the site of the present school and became known as the Casner school. In 1895 the present building was built. In the winter of 1876-77 Rev. J. H. Crowder held a protracted meeting in the school house, which resulted in the founding of the Casner United Brethren church. The old school building still stands and is used as a granary on a nearby farm.

UPPER RIDGE.

In 1860 all territory of the township east of the range line in Range 4 was one school district. A schedule for a school kept by J. A. Helm in a school house which stood on land of D. D. Wagoner was paid April 2, 1860. The amount was \$56.25. In October Mr. Helm was paid \$93.75, which completed payment of \$150 for conducting six months of school. This is the earliest date which appears

History of Decatur

and Macon County.

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Sept. 18, 1929.

Chapter 133.

Civil War.

(Continued)

There was one member of the 116th who saw plenty of war and never a battle, and that was William "Pat" Spangler. Pat's father was Jacob Spangler of Orleans, a pioneer of the county, who lived in the house which now stands a quarter mile east of the second jog in the Paris park road.

Pat gained the nickname which was to stick to him through life when, as a boy, he watched the building of the Wabash railroad through his father's home and the section men, thinking they saw the imprint of the Old Sod on the face of the youngster who seemed so interested in their work, dubbed him "Pat."

When the 116th went to war, Pat was filled with military ardor. With other boys he frequently visited Camp Macon, which is now Fairview park, and although he was only fourteen years old, he insisted on joining up with the regiment. His efforts were regarded as a joke by the recruiting officer and until the day the regiment left for the front, Pat was still a civilian.

SENT HOME.

That day, with Dimmit Anderson and Charles and Bart Shepherd, Pat went out to camp and tried once more. This time they were accepted, were signed up with due form and solemnity and when the 116th marched to the train, Pat and his three companions marched proudly with them.

When they reached the station, three of the youngsters, Pat included, were sent home. Bart Shepherd, younger than Pat, but taller, was talented with the drums, and he was permitted to go along, but when the regiment reached Springfield, some higher-up spotted the lad and soon he was back at home also.

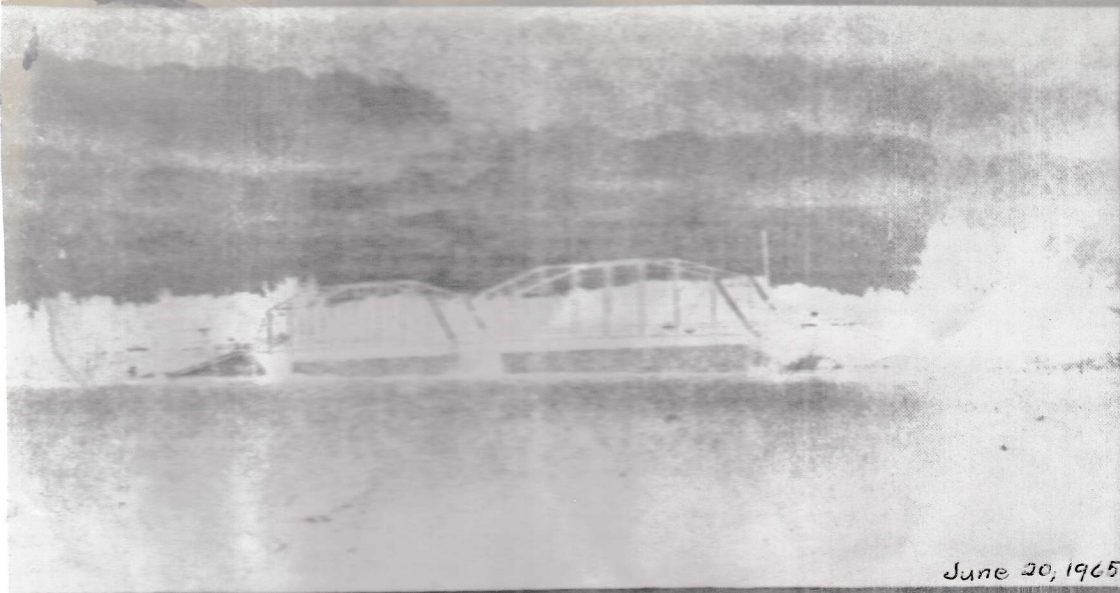
Balked in their attempts to go to the front, the four boys cast about for some service that they could render. A soldier named Hittenhouse was severely wounded by shrapnel and was sent back to Decatur in convalescence. He was installed in the home of a Mrs. House, north of where the Chromster block now stands, and much to their joy, the quartet of would-be soldiers were deputed to act as nurses.

AN UNPLEASANT TASK.

They took turns, two working days and two on duty at night. The job was not a pleasant one. Besides his wounds, the soldier was covered with sores and these the boys had to dress. Dr. Sibley, the attending physician, was a hard taskmaster and if a bandage was not put on just right he dressed the nurses down properly. In about a month the patient died. The boys were relieved to say the least and decided that they had seen enough of war for a time.

Twice, at least, Pat saw a near lynching. The stay-at-homes were handy with ropes in those days and the mention of sedition or disloyalty could usually produce a piece of hemp in short order.

One soldier of the 116th from Oakley, famed as a fighter, came in from camp one day on furlough and after imbibing a bit, set out to find a scrap. All other means having failed, he conceived the idea of cheering for Jeff Davis. His



June 20, 1965

William Street Bridge was built in 1916 to replace the old Spangler Bridge, named for pioneer family.

Decatur Diary

Pioneers Built Spangler Bridge

By Rex Spire

Of the Herald and Review Staff
"The old bridge ain't what it used to be."

That's what they said about the Spangler Bridge 30 years ago. Now, they're saying the same thing about the successor to the old Spangler Bridge—the East William Street Bridge.

In the proposed new alignment of Illinois 135 by the state, the narrow East William Street Bridge is to be replaced by twin bridges with the road to be widened to four lanes from 32nd Street to a mile east of Lake Decatur.

The present bridge was built in 1916 after the county board of highway commissioners decided the old Spangler Bridge "cannot last much longer."

Contracts for building the East William Street Bridge, for new road approaches and for changing the channel of the Sangamon River for a half mile were let to three companies at a cost of nearly \$55,000, a modest figure by today's standards.



This is how Spangler Bridge looked about 1895.

Decatur Bridge Co. had the successful bid of \$17,500 for erecting the superstructure.

The Spangler Bridge was so-called because it was erected by Jacob Spangler, who with his father, Joseph, had built

and run the Spangler Mill, one of the earliest and best-known mills in Macon County.

Come From Pennsylvania

The Spangler family came to this county from Pennsylvania in 1835. Jacob Spangler was the

first of the family to come to Illinois, making the trip to look over the country.

After his favorable report of the Decatur area, the rest of the family journeyed west. They entered land east and northeast of Decatur, having land in three townships.

The Spanglers constructed the mill in 1835. It is not definitely known when the bridge was erected, but it is likely the wooden structure followed shortly after the mill was completed.

William Spangler, a son of Jacob Spangler, was a colorful figure in Macon County for many years up to his death in 1938 at the age of 89.

He was often called upon by the Herald and Review to relate incidents about early Decatur. Two of his favorite stories concerned his meeting President-elect Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and seeing one of the first trains in this area.

Lincoln Stops Here

As a boy of 13, he walked to Decatur from his home through mud and ponds to see Lincoln when the latter's train made a short stop here.

When Lincoln saw the bedraggled boy, whose face apparently reflected his admiration and awe, he grabbed the boy's hands in warm greeting.

He saw his first train while herding cattle near the Illinois Central Railroad north of Decatur. He and his horse were both badly frightened by the unexpected sight of the fire-breathing monster.

Various members of the pioneer Spangler family are buried in the Spangler Cemetery, which later came to be known as Brush College Cemetery, on East William Street Road.

W. SPANGLER DIES AT 89

9/17/1938

Member of Old
Family; Rites Sunday

Funeral services for William W. Spangler, 89, Macon county pensioner, who died at 10:30 a. m. yesterday in the Decatur and Macon County hospital, will be held at 2:30 p. m. Sunday in the Dawson Wilkoff chapel. Burial will be in the Garver cemetery, northeast of Decatur.

For the last few years Mr. and Mrs. Spangler, who would have celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary Sept. 25, had been living at 238 West Macon street.

Member of Old Family

A member of one of Macon county's oldest families, Mr. Spangler spent practically his entire life in the area near Oreana. He was a son of Jacob Spangler, who built the

Spangler mill on the William street

The millstone can now be

seen at the site of the first dis-

covery of the lake on the north end

of the William street road. Mr.

Spangler's father also built

the Spangler bridge which spanned the

stream over at that point until

it was dismantled. His

grandfather, Joseph Spangler, came

to Macon county from Pennsyl-

vania in 1836.

Saw Abraham Lincoln

Pat Spangler, as a lad of 13

came to Decatur from his home

in Macon county and found in the

President-elect Abraham Lincoln

with the latter's train

at a five minute stop near

Oreana. Lincoln saw the bedraggled

boy, whose face no doubt reflected

deprivation and awe, he took both

of the boy's hands in a warm greeting.

Mr. Spangler could recall the

day when soldiers camped at

Patience park. He sometimes told

of a time when he killed a wild turkey

with a rifle and hanging it on

the wall of his home. Although they

were armed with shotguns they did

not succeed in killing any birds

from the flock.

Active in Politics

Born northeast of Decatur on the

the Rice farm Oct. 24, 1848, he was

married to Agnes Nesbitt Sept. 25,

1892. Three children, William, Myr-

tyl and Elmer, preceded him in

death.

He leaves, besides his wife, a

daughter, Mrs. Sue Benshaw, of

North Texas, and three grand-

daughters, Vera, May, and Jean

Spangler, all of Decatur.

Mr. Spangler was a member of

the Oreana church and was active

in politics, having run for sheriff

in 1908 and 1912.

Waste Disposal Study Funds to Be Sought

Dec. 30,
1975

By Glen R Cooper

A bid to get federal funding for a proposed solid waste disposal study project is being made by the city.

On Monday night, the City Council authorized the city staff to make a preapplication to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for funds.

Richard J. Lutovsky, city coordinator for the project, said the first step is making the inquiry to determine if the EPA will consider a formal grant application.

Lutovsky said a study of this type for Decatur and the area would cost \$50,000.

This would be based on the 75 per cent federal and 25 per cent local payment formula set up by the EPA.

This means, Lutovsky said, the city would be applying for a \$37,500 federal grant with the local share being \$12,500.

It has been determined other local agencies would be willing to share in the cost.

The study, if approved, would provide information on the feasibility of developing a reclamation system in Decatur and Macon County.

Then there could be a chance to explore alternatives, methods of financing and contractual agreements for a disposal system.

"In essence, all the groundwork necessary to actually implement the disposal system would be contained in the study and report," Lutovsky said.

Lutovsky said he believes the

EPA might consider Decatur for such a study because of the immediate need in the city and county for handling solid wastes.

He did note there is only \$350,000 available for such studies in the country.

It has been reported there are at least 100 cities wanting a share of the fund created for the study projects.

The EPA will select 25 of the cities for the program. Those 25 then will be invited to make a formal application.

Of the 25, the EPA will make grants to 7 or 8 cities.

Lutovsky said there are some firms in Decatur that have shown an interest in a solid waste disposal program.

As much of the solid waste as possible would be recycled, and the remainder would be burned as fuel in industrial plants.

Also Monday, the council approved action which could lead to 25 houses being razed because they are not fit for human habitation.

Robert R. Menzies of the city's department of community development said owners have failed to respond to city notice to either repair or tear down the structures.

He said he doesn't believe there are any occupants in the houses.

If there are, he said, efforts will be made to find other quarters for them.

The city's legal department will go to court seeking permission to raze the structures.

Menzies listed these structures to be razed:

1520 N. 31st St. ←
1751 N. 31st St.
1667 N. 33rd St.
1802 N. 34th St.
1638 N. 35th St.
1710 N. Broadway
1112 N. Calhoun St.
1148 N. Calhoun St.
1158 N. Calhoun St.
1220 N. Calhoun St.
4100 E. Cerro Gordo St.
1326 E. Condit St.
3535 E. Condit St.
3395 E. Division St.
2576 E. Garfield Ave.
3900 E. Grand Ave.
595 N. James St.
1125 S. Lake Shore Dr.
3275 MacArthur Rd.
427 E. Marietta St.
1129 E. Marietta St.
963 E. North St.
968 E. North St.
355 W. Packard St.
2440 E. Prairie Ave.
(Rear).

The council also named Harriet Perry to the Decatur Public Library Board of Trustees. Charles Walker was named to the Human Relations Commission.

The following bills were approved for payment:

— \$4,030 to Warren & Van Praag, Inc., for engineering services on the city's wastewater pumping facility

— \$4,031 to Entler Excavating for sidewalk construction near parks and schools.

— \$79,250 to Goodmar Inc., for work on the Folk Street storm sewer

— \$3,651 to Cutler Repaving for street resurfacing.