

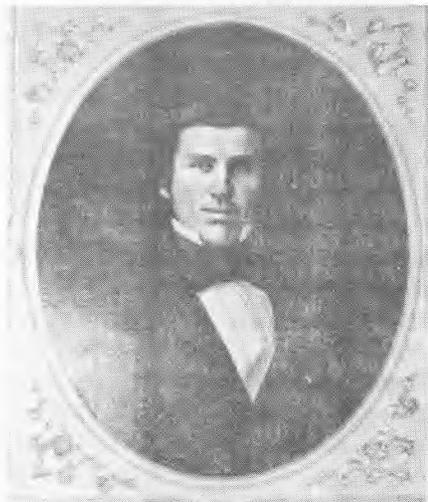
NUGGETS of HISTORY

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WHICH ONE IS JOHN H. MANNY?



Displayed in great dignity on the walls of Tinker Cottage are the two paintings shown in the above photographs. Is one of them John H. Manny?

The man in the oval-shaped picture on the left was thought to be Manny, according to a book entitled *THE REAPER* by John F. Steward. The same countenance, although shown from a slightly different angle, is portrayed on page 142 of Steward's book, and is labelled "John H. Manny". Found in the main Rockford Public Library, *THE REAPER* is not out on the open shelves, but may be requested from a librarian.

However, on a guided tour of Tinker Cottage the visitor will be told that the rectangular picture on the right is the painting of Manny, and that the one on the left is probably some relative, but they are not sure. Could one of them be his cousin, John P. Manny? Or possibly a relative of Mrs. Manny, who later became Mrs. Tinker? If any of our readers would be



Medals won by the Manny Reaper

able to supply more enlightening information, the editor would be happy to receive it.

We wish to quote from a newspaper article which appeared in the ROCKFORD REPUBLIC on August 22, 1914. Although that seems quite a while ago to us, it must be remembered that it nevertheless was 58 years after Manny's death:

"Two immense frames hang upon the walls of the Republic counting room and behind their glass fronts are mounted photographs of most of the Rockford men prominent in the professions, in business or in the world of manufacture and invention. A portrait of John H. Manny is in the interesting collection. 'Too young to have cut much ice' the casual onlooker would conclude. And yet despite the undeveloped features - with thought and character lines unmaped (sic) as yet on the boyish face - with the high and broad forehead, eyes set wide apart and the serious look of the thinker, it is a strong face that appears above the name of 'J. H. Manny.' He wore a stand-up collar and the voluminous (sic) flowing neckcloth of the 50's, tied in a loose bow. His heavy, long hair was brushed back from his fine head without parting and his large, thick-lipped mouth was redeemed by the lines that denoted thoughtfulness, not sensuality. While his sober makeup of black sack coat and general appearance gave him more the aspect of a serious-minded leader of spiritual



Cups won by the Manny Reaper

thought, yet the young man looks as though he could be trusted to the limit, was honest, truthful and earnestly facing a big problem in life."

Was the article referring to one of these paintings? If so, which one? And what became of the "two immense frames" which hung in the REPUBLIC counting room? Let us hear from you readers!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY RECALLS SWEDISH VOTE FOR LINCOLN

By Hazel M. Hyde

Lincoln's plain homespun humor and his way of putting his thoughts into plain, simple words made it easy for the Swedish immigrants to understand him. They thought of him as a man of the soil who had chopped his own wood just as many of the people had in Sweden. Rockford's Swedish population watched how he fought measures that sought to limit the privileges of any group of citizens, especially the laborer and newcomer.

Rockford Swedish people had set their goals

for owning homes, land, or a small business. When Lincoln, in an address given in Indianapolis, Indiana, September 19, 1859, said, "If a hired laborer worked as a freeman, he saved means to buy land of his own and to increase his prosperity," it was as though he spoke to each of them. This was exactly what the Swedish people of Rockford wanted.

Obtaining citizenship had been of first consideration for Rockford's Swedish people. They had generally had the right to vote and select governmental officials in Sweden. They were aware that naturalization was necessary in order to take up homestead claims. Their ministers urged them to take out citizenship papers at the earliest possible time.

Abraham Lincoln received unanimously the vote from the naturalized Swedish people of Rockford in the election of 1860, when he was running for the Presidency of the United States. The Swedish citizens of Rockford assembled in the east side public square, later named Haight Park. Under the leadership of their pastor, Reverend Andreas Andreen, first pastor of First Lutheran Church, forty-eight persons of Swedish ancestry marched in a body to vote for Abraham Lincoln. To these new citizens, the performing of their duty in voting was good reason for taking a day off from work. The county building was the only polling place, and these men marched in single file to the court house. A line of voters were waiting to vote. There was quite a stir when some said, "The Swedes have come to vote." The crowd appeared to know that each one of the band was Republican and that they had come to cast their votes for Abraham Lincoln.

The Swedish attitude toward Lincoln will be clearly illustrated in this portion of an interview with the late Mr. A. D. Erlander, while he was still living with his sister Mary Erlander in the home that became Erlander Museum. On September 23, 1945, he said:

"My earliest recollections in Rockford were about the Civil War. The first soldiers I saw

was when I was five years old. It was a rainy day. The soldiers came up on the porch out of the rain. That's my first recollection."

He continued, "We were brought up in a religious home. In church they tell you about the Trinity. To me the Trinity was God, Jesus, and Lincoln."

Then he added, "One Monday morning I was still in bed. I heard my father tell mother something as she was hanging the clothes. Mother started to cry. I cried in sympathy and asked what was the matter. "President Lincoln had been killed."



Erlander Museum

A PEEK INTO THE PAST
By Diane Foster

In 1839 Henry Maynard came to Owen Township. Mr. Maynard then went to the land office in Galena, where they were selling the public land of Winnebago County. The uniform government price for land was ten shillings per acre, which in American money was a dollar and forty cents. Maynard bought eighty acres of land on



The old stone house

the old State Road, which is now known as North Main Road. He returned to his property where he built a small, two-story limestone house and a small wooden barn.

A wooden addition was later built onto the house and it was

made into a hotel. This hotel was used as a stopping place along the stagecoach line for people traveling between Rockford and Rockton.

After many changes of ownership, the original eighty acres was sold, piece by piece, and the large wooden addition to the stone house was torn down. Today all that remains is the old stone house, the barn, and six and one-half acres of land.

In 1956, Charles and Shirley Kowing purchased the old Maynard house and barn, located at 5859 North Main Road. The Kowings modernized only the kitchen and the bathroom. The remaining seven rooms of the home remain just as they were, and have partially furnished with antiques.



The barn

Mr. Kowing, a building contractor, converted the barn into an antique and gift shop which they call "The Loft". The Kowings have tried to preserve the old country atmosphere of the 1800's. They seem to have been very successful in doing so.

Rockford's Elm Trees (Written about 1955)

What depressing desolation
In our stricken Forest City!
Trees that arched our streets and highways,
Fill our hearts with deepest pity.

Lovely elm trees clasping branches,
Green with foliage over-head,
Now are straight and stark and rigid,
Bare and leafless, grey and dead.

May our future generations
Have the beauty that we've lost,
Through our planning and our planting
God's great trees are worth the cost!!

... Vera Dell Jacobson

THE APPLE HOUSE OR COLONIAL ACRES

By Joanne Anderson

(Student of Mrs. Hazel M. Hyde, Washington
Junior High School)

The Apple House, formerly known as Colonial Acres, is located at 4105 South Main Street. The four bedroom home was built in 1863. The house also contains a living room, sunporch, staircase and numerous hallways. The surrounding thirty-five acres of land grows 1,400 apple trees.

The old unused windmill stands only yards away from the one hundred-three-year-old "mansion", as some people call it because of its stately pillars.

Behind and to the left of this home is an old building containing several old documents and many odd trinkets. One of these old documents is an aged book containing a list of the military men who fought in the Michigan army during the Civil War (1861-1865). One of the various names listed in this book was checked. As Kay Herdman, daughter of the pre-

sent owners, said, "It must have been either a friend or relative of the first family who occupied Colonial Acres."

Also on the grounds near the house is a small tenant house. It resembles the house it has been near for so long by having similar white siding and gray shutters.

The Apple House remained vacant for many years after one of the first families that occupied it moved out. After a period of time, Mr. Vernon Page's family moved into Colonial Acres. In 1935, while Mr. Page lived there, Colonial Acres and the surrounding land was operated as a turkey farm, but soon after he moved in he converted the turkey farm into an apple farm, and changed the name to suit the farm.

Mr. Page also remodeled his home, which was first made of stucco. He put on a white siding. He changed the inside of the house by adding a new kitchen onto the house and turning the old kitchen into a dining room.

The Apple House is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Herdman and their daughter Kay. Also in the family but not living in the house are their two sons, one of whom is Lee Herdman, who attended Washington Junior High School in his earlier years. He and his brother are now attending college out of town.

The siding on the Apple House is that which Mr. Page put on it. The apple trees are the same ones that he planted, and they still bear fruit. Most parts of the house are original, which is shown by the large, tall windows and doors and very high ceilings.

(A photograph of Colonial Acres will appear in the next issue of NUGGETS of HISTORY.)

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